Kodansya Comics

THEチェリープロジェクト①

武内直子

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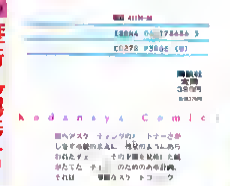
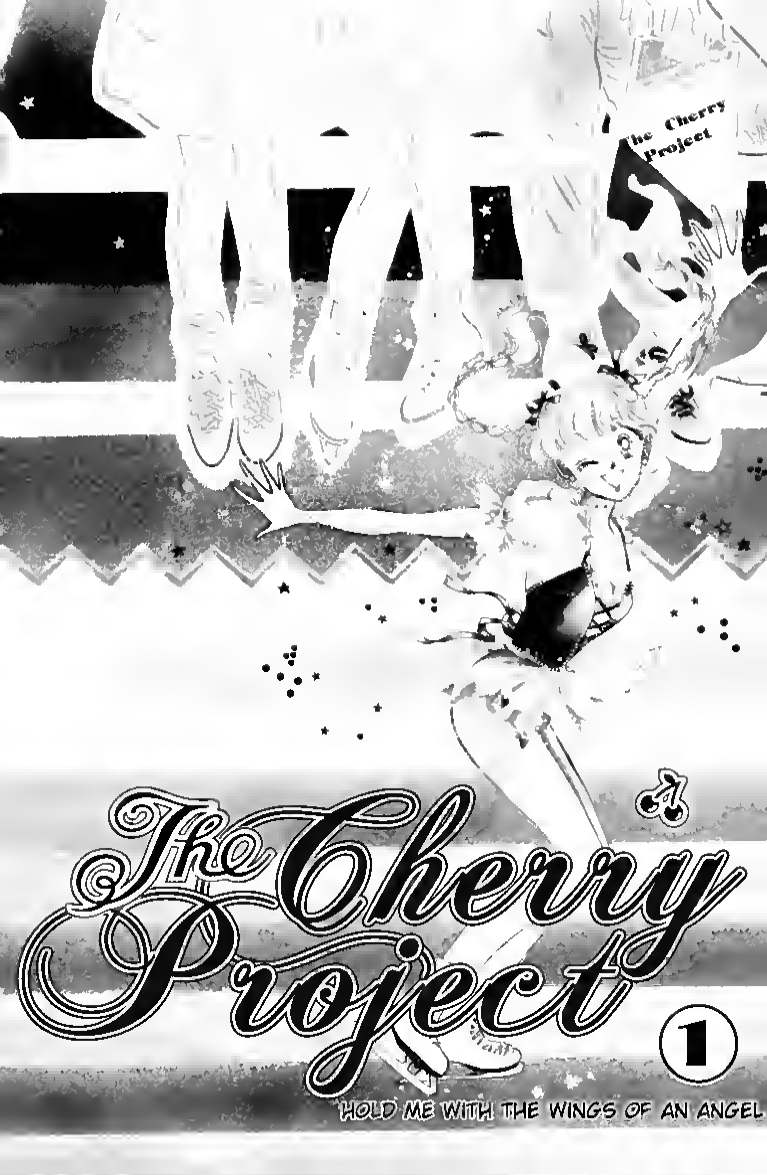


The Cherry Project
1
YOU'RE MY LUCKY CHARM
BEFORE I GO OUT ON THE RINK
KISS ME
SO THAT I'LL BE ABLE TO SKATE WELL
clack
YES SIR!
LET'S BEGIN THE SEARCH
OKAY

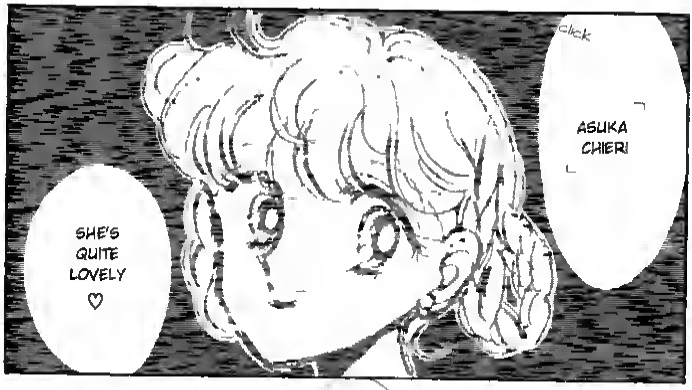

The Cherry Project
The Cherry Project
1
HOLD ME WITH THE WINGS OF AN ANGEL

HMMM
type
type
ASUKA CHIERI. .
type
—— "CHERRY", EH?
type
click
NO.1
ASUKA CHIERI
014Y
F

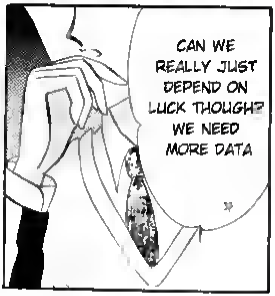
thanks for reading cherry!
a kiss of thanks
march 1988, 1991

CHIERI
LET'S SEE, MY HOROSCOPE FOR TODAY IS ..
BEWARE OF INJURIES THAT COULD CAUSE YOU A LOT OF TROUBLE, BUT DON'T WORRY - SOON YOU WILL HAVE A CHANCE ENCOUNTER THAT WILL TOTALLY CHANGE YOUR LIFE!
TODAY'S LUCKY ITEM: A CRYSTAL NECKLACE
flip
I HAVE ONE OF THOSE SOMEWHERE
flip
HERE IT IS! MY GOOD LUCK CRYSTAL!
CHIERI, WE'RE LEAVING!

I'M LEAVING MAMA! ♡
TEE HEE MY LUCKY CHARM! ♡
OKAY!
BORN AUGUST 16TH
AND HER MOTHER DIED WHEN SHE WAS SIX YEARS OLD IN A PLANE CRASH AT CHALES DE GALLES AIRPORT
LOOKS LIKE HER FATHER IS A FORMER ALL-JAPAN CHAMPION
click
type
type
TSUZUKI, THIS GIRL HAS THE SAME BIRTHDAY AS YOU.
WHAT A HOROSCOPE! SHE'S GOT GREAT LUCK.


Click
ASUKA CHIERI
SHE'S QUITE LOVELY ♡

THIS IS RELIABLE!
beep beep
SHE OBVIOUSLY TAKES AFTER HER FATHER, THE FORMER ALL JAPAN CHAMPION


CAN WE REALLY JUST DEPEND ON LUCK THOUGH? WE NEED MORE DATA

BESIDES, THIS MATCHES UP WITH YOUR HOROSCOPE FOR TODAY
LOOK
flip
flip
HMMM
MY FORTUNE FOR TODAY..
BEWARE OF INJURIES THAT COULD CAUSE YOU TROUBLE...

BUT GOOD NEWS. YOU WILL HAVE A CHANCE MEETING THAT WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE. LUCKY ITEM: CRYSTAL NECKLACE
NO WAY! LOOKS LIKE WE MAY HAVE FOUND THE PERFECT PERSON
YOUR NEW PAIR SKATING PARTNER!
I DOUBT IT'S AS SIMPLE AS ALL THAT ☆
JEAZ
WE WENT TO ALL THE HIGH-RANKING SKATE CLUBS TO FIND YOU SOMEONE, BUT NONE OF THE GIRLS APPEALED TO YOU
WELL
NONE OF THEM REALLY CLICKED WITH ME

OKAY, LET'S SKATE!
WAIT UP!
DAD I'M GOING AHEAD!
WHY DON'T WE JUST GO GET SOME FOOD
YOU CARE A LOT ABOUT FIRST IMPRESSIONS
I GUESS THAT'S HER. SHE SKATES AT ABOUT YOUR LEVEL, SO WHO KNOWS WHAT COULD POSSIBLY HAPPEN
MAYBE WE SHOULDN'T BE SPYING ON HER ON A SUNDAY LIKE THIS
COME ON, KOUICHI.
STOP HOLDING MY HAND
THIS IS MY PROBLEM, AFTER ALL

THIS MIGHT HAVE BEEN A FLUKE FROM THE START ANYWAY. WHO COULD HAVE GUESSED I'D HAVE GOTTEN FIRST PLACE IN THE PAIR CATEGORY IN JUNIOR HIGH?
I'M THE ONE WITH THE TALENT FOR RECRUITING AND RESEARCHING GIRLS ♡
BUT YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT BY YOURSELF
GOT IT?
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO QUIT ONCE YOU ENTER HIGH SCHOOL ANYWAY, RIGHT? YOU'LL REGRET IT IF YOU STOP NOW LATER ON, TSUZUKI
YOU DON'T WANT TO SPEND YOUR SENIOR YEAR IN JUNIOR HIGH WITH ME. SPEND IT WITH YOUR NEW PARTNER INSTEAD!

SPEND IT WITH YOUR PARTNER INSTEAD!
TRADE CENTER RINK
WOW
HUH? NO WAY
AH, IT'S HIROSHI.
YOUR BEEPER IS GOING OFF
TRADE CENTER RINK
TRADE CENTER RINK? THEY BUILT AN ICE SKATING RINK IN THIS PLACE?
beep
beep beep
AH, HIROSHI?! HOW DID THINGS TURN OUT OVER THERE?
KOUICHI?
IS TSUZUKI WITH YOU?
WANT TO SEE SOMETHING INTERESTING?

TRADE CENTER RINK
COME HERE RIGHT AWAY
TRADE CENTER RINK
WHERE ARE YOU NOW?
WE'RE RIGHT OUTSIDE OF IT
HUH
TRADE CENTER RINK
SO THIS IS A WEEKEND RINK? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, HIROSHI?
LOOKING FOR A FAIR PARTNER
THEY MIGHT BE WORTH CHECKING OUT
THERE'S A STRANGE PARENT AND CHILD COUPLE WHO COME TO SKATE HERE EVERY WEEKEND
I'M TRYING TO FIND YOU A PART TIME JOB. YOU WANT SOMEONE WHO CAN SKATE, RIGHT TSUZUKI?
SORRY IF I'M BEING HARSH, BUT SHE CAN'T JUST BE A DECENT SKATER
FIGURE SKATING
BUZ

WOW, WHAT A NICE SHOULDER LIFT! ♡
DO A LIFT NEXT!
PAPA
THOSE TWO ARE AMAZING!
WOW COOL! ♡
!!
WATCH OUT!
twish
YOU'VE GOTTA BE ABLE TO DO YOUR MANUEVERS NO MATTER WHAT THE SITUATION ☆
twoosh
I DON'T THINK I CAN! ☆
IF YOU REALLY WANT TO LEARN HOW TO SKATE
I DON'T THINK THE RINK IS GOING TO GET ANY EMPTIER BUT I WANT TO PRACTICE MY SPINS ☆

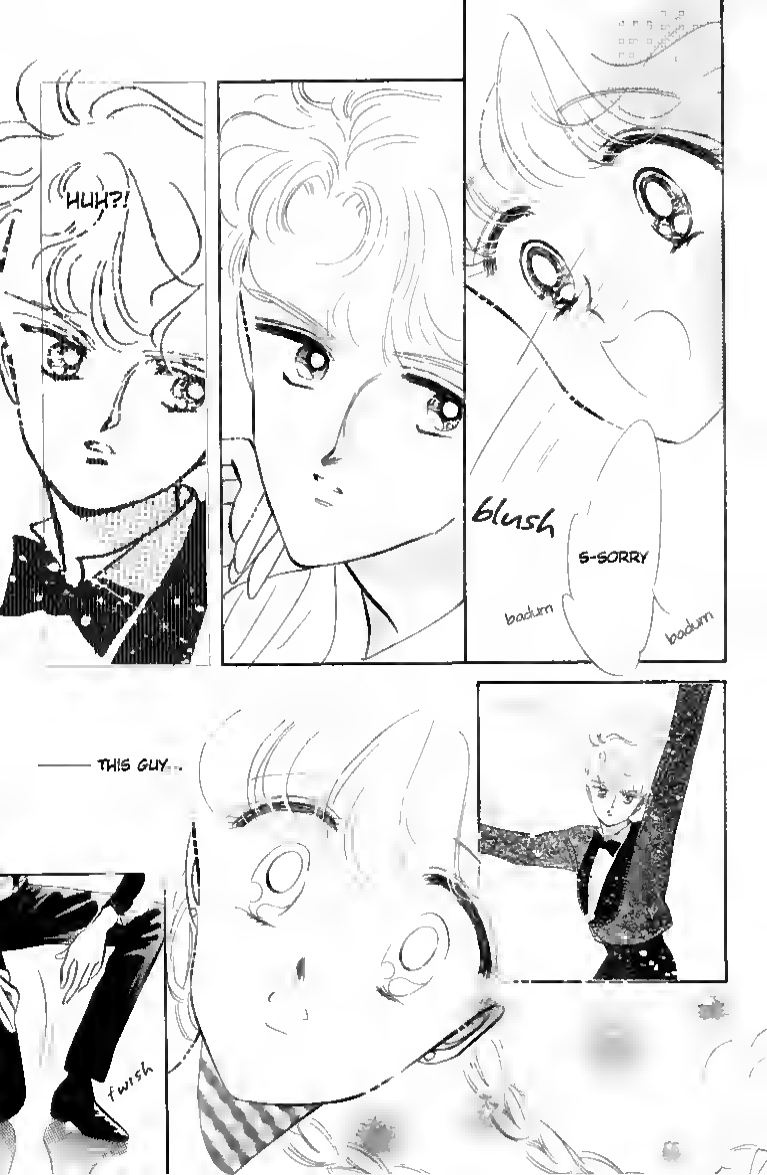
CHIERI!
!
JUMP
bwosh
THAT WAS CLOSE! BUT SHE MUST HAVE JUMPED 90 CENTIMETERS INTO THE AIR, AT LEAST!
MUST HAVE BEEN A FLUKE
KA-CHINK
OH REALLY?
THAT'S NO FAIR, ONLY DAD DOES BALLET JUMPS!
BACKFLIP - WHEN YOU FLIP BACKWARDS ON THE ICE

THIS MUSIC IS EASY TO SKATE TO!
NOW IT'S CHIERI'S SHOW TIME!
A BACK FLIP?!
SWOOSH
WILL DISPLAY HER MAGNIFICENT SKILL AND TALENT IN THE RINK!
THE HIGHLY ANTICIPATED NEWCOMER TO THE SKATING INDUSTRY, MS. ASUKA
WOO!

Tail!
BEHOLD MISS CHIERI'S GLORIOUS TRIPLE LUTZ! ♡

YIKES!
I'M GOING TO HIT SOMEONE!!
CHIERI?

grab
push
lift
SHE'S SO LIGHT!
!!
whoosh
thud
ow
BONK


HUH?!
blush
S-SORRY
badum
badum
THIS GUY...
twitch

SEE YA
CHIERI!
HEY TSUZUKI, YOU ALL RIGHT?
I TOLD YOU SHE WAS WORTH CHECKING OUT
badum
badum
badum
YOU APOLOGIZED PROPERLY, DIDN'T YOU?!

SO SHE STRUCK ALL THREE OF US THEN
DIDN'T SHE
YOU HEARD HER NAME, RIGHT? SHE'S RELATED TO THE OLD NATIONAL CHAMPION. HER SHOWINESS IS TYPICAL OF A LEO WITH B BLOOD TYPE. SHE WAS A STAR AS SOON AS SHE WAS BORN!
THERE'S NO ONE ELSE OUT THERE WITH HER NERVE, SKATING ABILITY, OR SENSE OF RHYTHM
HIGH FIVE
SHE WAS REALLY LIGHT
SHE SAID SHE WAS ONLY GOING FOR A TRIPLE LUTZ
BUT IF SHE HADN'T CRASHED INTO ME, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A QUADRUPLE LUTZ
clink

SLAM
Chiori's Room
LUCKY ITEM...
A CRYSTAL NECKLACE...
Pant
pant
IT REALLY IS HIM
TSUZUKI MASANORI!
IT LOOKED JUST LIKE HIM
THAT'S THE FACE I STARE AT EVERY DAY
IT'S NO MISTAKE

POP
MASANORI TSUZUKI
YAAAAAY
TSUZUKI MASANORI!
cheer
EXHIBITION
MASANORI T
DONG
NEXT UP IS OUR SPECIAL PARTICIPANT FOR THIS EVENT!
IT'S TSUZUKI MASANORI!
WHEN I WAS IN SIXTH GRADE, I WENT WITH MY DAD TO A SKATING EXHIBITION
AND HE DID IT! AT THE TENDER AGE OF 12 HE HAS COMPLETED THE TRIPLE AXEL, HIS FAVORITE MANEUVER!
DAD! TAKE A PICTURE! HURRY, HURRY UP! WHO IS THAT GUY?!
WOW! HE'S DOING SUCCESSIVE BACK FLIPS! (THAT'S INCREDIBLE!)

THAT'S THE JUNIOR CHAMPION
clap
clap
I WON'T FORGET HIM
HE'S THE SAME AGE AS ME, BUT HE SEEMS LIKE A GIANT GLIDING OVER THAT BLUE ICE
HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S FLOATING ON WINGS
LIKE AN ANGEL
yaaay!

THAT GUY I BUMPED INTO!
IT'S THIS SKATER! TSUZUKI MASANORI!
DAD!
BUT I COULDN'T FIND HIM AGAIN. IT WAS AS IF HE DISAPPEARED, LIKE HE HAD NEVER BEEN THERE IN THE FIRST PLACE
THAT'S RIGHT. AFTER I SAW HIM THE FIRST TIME, I SEARCHED FOR HIM EVERYWHERE, ON TV AND EVERYTHING
REALLY?
I'M SURE OF IT! DIDN'T YOU SEE HIS FACE?
WHAT A COINCIDENCE. IT'S A SMALL WORLD AFTER ALL.
BUT DIDN'T THAT BOY QUIT SKATING?
IT CAN'T BE, I'VE FINALLY MET HIM AGAIN! AND HE'S SO CLOSE TO ME TOO!
OHH!
ACK!
IT'S GONE! MAMA'S PENDANT - I'VE LOST IT!!

HEY, HURRY ALONG TO YOUR ROOM. YOU HAVE TO STUDY. I'LL CALL THE SKATING RINK ABOUT THE PENDANT TOMORROW, OKAY?
BUT MY HOROSCOPE SAID THAT MY LUCKY ITEM FOR TODAY WAS MY CRYSTAL PENDANT! (OHH, NO!)
WELL THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR WEARING IT OUTSIDE
I LOVE YOU TOO
TEE HEE. OH DAD. I LOVE YOU! ♡
I'M SORRY I LOST YOUR PENDANT, MAMA
I HAD A DRAMATIC MEETING
TODAY
HE'S GOTTEN SO MUCH TALLER

SEE YA
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE I SAW HIM
I CAN STILL FEEL HOW IT FELT WHEN YOU
HELD ME ...
DID YOU SEE ME SKATING?
I STARTED TO PRACTICE SKATING
SO I COULD BE MORE LIKE YOU
I WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN

HONK
JEAZ, QUIET DOWN
woo hoo
SLAM
ROLLS ROYCE SILVER SHADOW II
I WANT TO SEE YOU
AGAIN
HONK
TODAY'S THE DEADLINE!
HELP ME THINK OF A CLASS PROGRAM FOR THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL!
peek SORRY I'M LATE EVERYONE! WHAT ARE YOU ALL DISCUSSING?
LET'S SELL CHOCOLATE BANANAS! ♡
CHIERI! I'M ALL FOR KARAOKE!
HOW ABOLIT A KARAOKE BAR?
ALL THE OTHER GROUPS HAVE ALREADY SUBMITTED THEIR PROPOSALS CLASS 1 IS DOING A RUMMAGE SALE, CLASS 3 IS SELLING TAKOYAKI*. ☆
OH OR WHAT ABOUT SELLING GOLDFISH? ☆
woo hoo
chatter
chatter
*NOTE. TAKOYAKI IS FRIED OCTOPUS BALLS WHICH IS TRADITIONAL FESTIVAL FARE !!

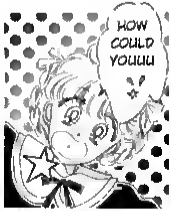
Happy Birthday!

Today is March 15th, and I am turning 24 years old. I received a bouquet of flowers and a cherry pink dress I'm wearing it right now actually. And I'm very happy. There are a lot of things in life that make me happy right now.

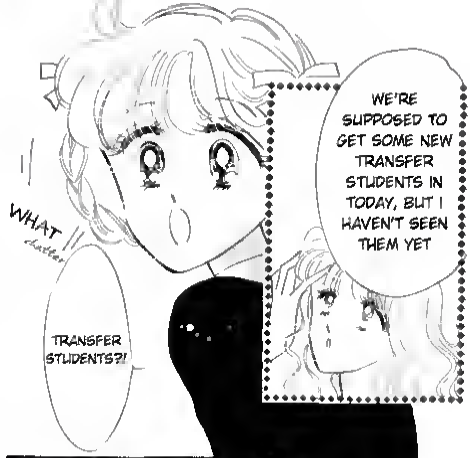
Anyway, hello! Chieri is my first serialized heroine. This is the first volumized series I ever made. (Please check out volume 2 as well!)

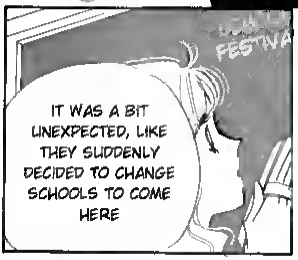
This is also my first manga about figure skating. So for the first time I began watching figure skating regularly to study. (Of course, I don't know everything, so forgive me!)

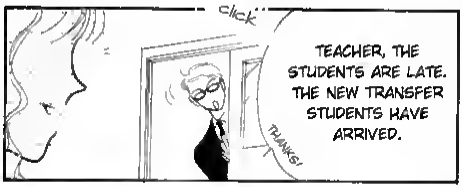
During this serialization I made my first trip abroad (to NY!) I was there for ten days! (I'm so reckless.) And because I left, it was the first time I had a lot of trouble come up with my serialization work. Naturally

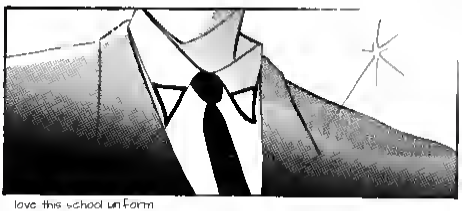


← how chieri felt









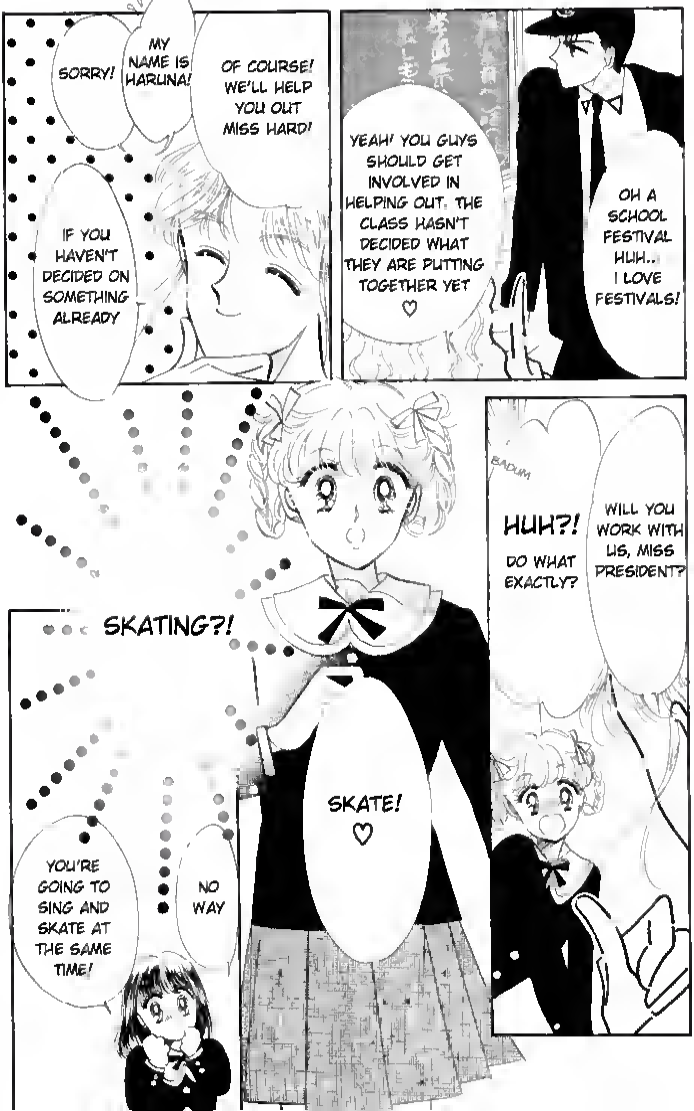
love this school uniform

HEY, ISN'T THAT A GREEN GARDEN ACADEMY UNIFORM? IT'S SO COOL! IT HAS A BOYISH CHARM TO IT!
WOW LOOK AT THAT COOL HAT!
chatter
WONDERFUL! STANDING OVER THERE ARE THE PRESIDENTS OF CLASS 2-2, ASUKA CHIERI, AND THE VICE PRESIDENT, NISHIMURA YUNI.
THESE BOYS ARE TRANSFER STUDENTS
FROM GREEN GARDEN ACADEMY. PLEASE MAKE THEM FEEL WELCOME
BOYS?
?
twish
HEY
WHAT'S WRONG? COME ON IN

I'M FUJIWARA HIROSHI
NICE TO MEET YOU PRESIDENT CHIERI! ♡
I'M AKIYAMA KOUICHI
I'M TSUZUKI MASANORI

OH WOW! KOUICHI IS HALF JAPANESE AND HALF AMERICAN! THAT'S AWESOME!
I THINK HIROSHI IS THE CUTEST
clink
THEY ACT LIKE A WEAPON
twitch
badum
WHEN YOU SKATE WEARING STUFF LIKE THIS
MY PENDANT!

*NOTE. THIS IS ALSO THE NAME OF USAGI'S SCHOOL TEACHER IN "SAILOR MOON" WHICH CAME OUT AFTER THIS PUBLICATION. THE NAME "SAKURADA HARUNA" IS A PUN, BECAUSE IT SOUNDS LIKE THE PHRASE "SAKURA DA HARU DA" - "THERE ARE CHERRY BLOSSOMS SO IT MUST BE SPRING" IN SAILOR MOON. THE JOKE CHANGES SLIGHTLY BECAUSE USAGI CALLS HER "MISS HARD" - BECAUSE HER NAME SOUNDS LIKE "HARU DA". THE KATAKANA WRITING OF THE ENGLISH WORD "HARD"


SORRY!
MY NAME IS HARUNA!
OF COURSE! WE'LL HELP YOU OUT MISS HARD!
IF YOU HAVEN'T DECIDED ON SOMETHING ALREADY
YEAH! YOU GUYS SHOULD GET INVOLVED IN HELPING OUT. THE CLASS HASN'T DECIDED WHAT THEY ARE PUTTING TOGETHER YET ♡
OH A SCHOOL FESTIVAL HUH... I LOVE FESTIVALS!
BADUM
HUH?!
DO WHAT EXACTLY?
WILL YOU WORK WITH US, MISS PRESIDENT?
SKATING?!
SKATE! ♡
NO WAY
YOU'RE GOING TO SING AND SKATE AT THE SAME TIME!

W-WHAAAT?!
NO
WHAT I MEANT WAS, MAYBE DURING SHOW TIME YOU COULD DEBUT AS THE SKATER, "ASUKA CHIERI", IN FRONT OF EVERYONE
SO THEN IT'S DECIDED
SPEAKING OF WHICH, CHIERI'S DAD IS A NATIONAL CHAMPION AT SKATING
THAT SOUNDS AWESOME! ♡
YEAH!
THIS WILL BE FUN
LET'S DO IT

* THE WORD FOR BRAIN IS WRITTEN IN ENGLISH IN THE ORIGINAL.

THE SCHOOL PRESIDENT IS REALLY TALENTED. IF YOU LEAVE THINGS TO US, WE'LL BE ABLE TO PULL OFF ALL OF THE BACKGROUND EFFORT NEEDED TO MAKE THIS EVENT HAPPEN
DON'T WORRY TEACHER
TSUZUKI MASANORI - PROJECT CAPTAIN*
WOOOOW
clap clap
THIS IS SOOOO COOL! DOESN'T THIS FEEL LIKE IT'S THE GREATEST PROJECT EVER?
WE'LL LET YOU TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING!
I'LL BE IN CHARGE OF THE MUSIC
I'LL WRITE IT MYSELF
FUJIWARA HIROSHI - MUSIC ARRANGER
LET'S BEGIN THIS THEN. THE CHERRY PROJECT!

*CAPTAIN

OH CHIERI, I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU FIGURE SKATE AT THE SHCOOL FESTIVAL. LET'S KEEP IT JUST BETWEEN US IN THE SAME CLASS FOR ♡ NOW ♡
GOOD LUCK
EVERYBODY KEEPS CALLING ME, SAYING CHIERI, CHIERI! GOOD LUCK TO YOU! IT'S TOO MUCH
CHIERI! ♡
WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU CHIERI!
HEY CHIERI, GOOD LUCK WITH THE SKATING! ♡
ding
dong
dong
UGHHH
I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF I CAN REALLY DO THIS
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
MY NAME IS HARUNA! ♪
WORK HARD YOU TWO. I'LL HELP YOU GUYS OUT TOO, OKAY?
EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT THIS IN THE TEACHER'S LOUNGE TOO
OH, MISS HARD
YOU HAVE THOSE THREE NEW GUYS DOING ALL THE ORGANIZATION FOR YOU. THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT - YOU CAN DO THIS!

I'LL DO IT
WE'LL DO IT TOGETHER!
I'M ONLY REALLY DOING IT BECAUSE OF TSUZUKI MASANORI, THOUGH
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT THE RINK? MAYBE WE CAN FREEZE THE POOL
YEAH
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S TRANSFERRED TO MY CLASS. I'M SO LUCKY
tenten♡
THE STARS ARE SHINING DOWN ON ME LATELY ♡
BUT I'M STILL FEELING A LITTLE...
UNEASY ABOUT THIS...
SKATING AT THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL..
THE FIRST HURDLE HAS BEEN CLEARED

THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL IS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR HER TO UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING ABOUT PERFORMANCE SKATING
THIS ISN'T SOMETHING WE SHOULD RUSH
NOW SHE'S GOING TO BE ABLE TO FIGURE SKATE LIKE A PROFESSIONAL. LET'S HURRY UP AND GET THIS FESTIVAL OVER WITH, SO YOU TWO CAN BEGIN PRACTICING AS A PAIR.
JUST LOOK AT HER. SHES GOING TO BE ENMESHED IN FIGURE SKATING
SHE HAS A LOT OF NATURAL TALENT
WE NEED TO NAIL DOWN A SCHEDULE FOR WHAT TASKS WE NEED TO ACCOMPLISH
BUT FIRST OF ALL
WHAT?
A SKATING PERFORMANCE ?!
THEY SAID THEY WERE GOING TO ORGANIZE ALL THE DETAILS!
THEY'RE PUTTING ON A SKATING SHOW AT THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL WITH CHIERI!
DID YOU SEE THEM? THE TRANSFER STUDENTS FROM CLASS 2 ..THEY'RE AMAZING! AND ALL THREE OF THEM ARE IN YOUR CLASS, RIGHT?!

CHIERI
CHIERI ♡
grab
RIIIIIING
PANIC
WAKE UP!
THEY'RE SETTING UP A PROJECT TEAM!
UGH
NICE!
I'M SLEEPY
I WANT TO SLEEP A LITTLE LONGER
HANG IN THERE CHIERI
I HATE MORNINGS
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT. FROM NOW ON FOR YOUR TRAINING, YOU NEED TO WAKE UP AT 6 AM EVERY DAY SO YOU HAVE TIME TO GO JOGGING
EVERY DAY ?!
SIX AM IS A NORMAL TIME FOR MORNING EXERCISES. GUESS YOU'VE NEVER DONE ANY SCHOOL SPORTS BEFORE
I HAVEN'T! I USUALLY DO STUFF AFTER SCHOOL!
SPEAKING OF WHICH...WE'VE SEEN YOUR SPORTS TESTING RESULTS...

THE FESTIVAL COMMITTEE MUST HAVE APPROVED OUR PROJECT THINKING THAT IT WOULD BE A ONE-TIME THING FOR THE FESTIVAL...BUT YOU'RE OUR PRESIDENT, AND YOU AREN'T SETTING A GOOD EXAMPLE. WE'RE VERY THOROUGH ABOUT WHAT WE WANT TO SEE IN RESULTS FROM YOU
YOUR FLEXIBILITY IS GOOD, BUT YOUR MUSCLE STRENGTH AND CARDIORESPORATORY FUNCTIONS ARE TERRIBLE
WHAT
AND WE'RE GOING TO START BY IMPROVING YOUR RUNNING ABILITIES
YOU ARE A BULLY, AKIYAMA KOUICHI!
FUJIWARA HIROSHI! THIS ISN'T FAIR! YOU CAN'T JUST SKATEBOARD AWAY!
whoosh
twoosh
NO FAIR!
I CAN'T DO THIS ANYMORE
Po
pant
Pant
HUH
GRAB

COME ON, FOLLOW ME. DON'T GIVE UP

W-WELL IF TSUZUKI MASANORI SAYS I CAN DO IT. . .

WHAT ARE THESE? ROLLER SKATES? THEY LOOK WEIRD

SPEED SKATERS USE THESE TO SKATE ON LAND. THEY'RE REALY POPULAR IN NEW YORK. SO THAT YOU'LL GET USED TO SKATING AROUND MORE, I WANT YOU TO USE THESE EVER DAY. YOU DON'T PRACTICE MUCH, AFTER ALL YOU HAVE TO PRACTICE SKATING AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE TO BECOME A MASTER!

THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF OUR ROUTE

HERE

JEAZ

WE'RE PASSING THROUGH SHIBA PARK NOW. WE'RE ONLY THREE KILOMETERS FROM YOUR HOUSE

2nd Ave

CHIERI LOVES ANYWHERE SHE CAN SKATE ♡
SHE'S FINALLY HERE, AND SKATING!
IF YOU WANT TO UNDERSTAND THE TRUE MEANING OF BEING A SKATER, YOU HAVE TO SKATE WHENEVER YOU CAN
fwoosh
OUT OF THE WAY, COMING THROUGH, WOO HOO!
swish
HAVE YOU EVER DONE RELAY SKATING BEFORE?
MORNIN'
YOU LOOK HAPPY WHEN YOU'RE SKATING
MORNIN'
MORNIN'

THAT'S A SECRET
HEY, SO, AM I GOING TO BE SKATING WITH ROLLER SKATES AT THE EVENT?
WE DON'T HAVE A RINK AT THE SCHOOL. WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ?
DO YOU PREFER TO ROLLER SKATE?
I SAW YOU A LONG TIME AGO AT A FIGURE SKATING EXHITBITION
I MEAN, YOU'RE GOING TO BE SKATING WITH ME TOO, RIGHT? AT THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL
I LIKE FIGURE SKATING! I WANT TO SEE YOU SKATE TOO.
N-NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!

I GAVE UP ON THAT
AT THE FESTIVAL YOU'LL BE SKATING BY YOURSELF
WH-
WHAT?
IN THE MIDDLE AGES IN EUROPE
WHAT WAS THAT... HE SAID THAT SO... NONCHALANTLY, LIKE HE DIDN'T EVEN CARE
SO NOW I'M SUPPOSED TO SKATE ALONE AT THE FESTIVAL? HE'S REALLY NOT GOING TO SKATE WITH ME?
whoosh.

I HEARD FROM YUNI THAT YOU'RE SKATING THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL. THAT'S GREAT.
NOT TO SKATE! TO GO JOGGING!
AND THE JUNIOR FIGURE SKATING CHAMPION TSUZUKI IS YOUR COACH, AND HE TRANSFERRED TO YOUR SCHOOL RIGHT?
WHY ARE YOU WATCHING TV? DON'T YOU HAVE TO GET UP AT SIX AM TO PRACTICE FOR YOUR FESTIVAL PERFORMANCE?
I DON'T DO THAT ANYMORE...
I GAVE UP ON THAT...
THAT'S NOT REALLY MY PLAN DAD
THIS IS YOUR CHANCE, CHIERI. YOU COULD GET INTO A FAMOUS SKATING GROUP AND BECOME A CHAMPION
A PERSON WHO QUITS CAN'T BE MY COACH. THAT TSUZUKI MASANORI...HE SEEMS LIKE SUCH A COLD PERSON...
FINE

IF HE REALLY GAVE UP ON SKATING, WHY WOULD HE WANT TO RUN THIS FESTIVAL EVENT...
—— BUT
RIIIIIING
NO ONE IS SKATING AT THE FESTIVAL BUT ME, RIGHT?
SO THEN WHY IS EVERYONE ELSE DOING THIS?
THERE'S NO NEED FOR ALL THREE OF YOU TO BE TRAINING ME FOR A ONE TIME CLASS FESTIVAL EVENT
twish
...
CHERRY, LOOK AT THIS
DON'T BE SUCH A BABY ABOUT WAKING UP EARLY
huff
huff-huff
UGH
CHIERI!
WAKE UP!
BEEP

THIS IS NO DIFFERENT THAN JOINING AN OFFICIAL SKATING CLUB!
YOU'RE NOT JOINING A CLUB. YOU'RE A MEMBER OF THE PROJECT TEAM.
FIRST OF ALL, WE'VE SET UP THIS EXERCISE PROGRAM WITH THE GOAL OF GIVING YOU A FOUNDATION OF GOOD PHYSICAL STRENGTH AND FITNESS
Exercise
GOOAM ~
jogging
roller skate
(school)
Practice
Homework
weights
Everday
Saturdays
flip flip
skate
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING CHIERI, LEAVE IT ALL TO US!
OHHH
HEY YUNI NO FAIR! YOU HAVE A SKATEBOARD!
I'M TIRED OF HEARING ABOUT THIS FOUNDATION STUFF DAY AFTER DAY
THE SECOND FOUNDATION FOR PHYSICAL STRENGTH, IS SADLY, LIMITED BY TIME
RUN ALONG NOW
skate

click
click
click
WHEN AM I GOING TO GET TO PRACTICE ON A RINK... THE FESTIVAL IS ONLY A MONTH AWAY ☆
PERFECT, TSUZUKI! YOU MAY TAKE YOUR SEAT
SQUEEK
SQUEEK
4:00 PM
at the front gate
CRINKLE
HUH?
fwish
BYE TSUZUKI!
BYE
badum
badum

WHERE IS EVERYONE ELSE?
TODAY IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US
SHALL WE GO?
I WONDER WHERE WE'RE GOING
THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS I WANT TO TALK ABOUT BUT...
BUT WHERE SHOULD I EVEN BEGIN? I DON'T KNOW
SKATING RINK
A RINK?

WE'RE FINALLY GOING TO PRACTICE AT THE RINK TODAY?! WOW! I'LL HURRY HOME AND GRAB MY SUIT AND SHOES!
YOU HAD P.E. CLASS TODAY, RIGHT? YOUR JERSEY WILL BE A GOOD ENOUGH OUTFIT. GO AHEAD AND CHANGE, THE LOCKERS ARE RIGHT OVER THERE
SKATE SHOES CENTER
SHOE SIZE?
22
22 CENTI-METERS
TON
YOU'RE GOING TO SKATE IN THIS FOR AS MANY WEEKS AS IT TAKES FOR YOU TO GET USED TO IT
HEY
2-1 ASUKA
YAY
HURRY UP
WHAAAAT
2-1 ASUKA
I LOOK GROSS
OHHH, I DON'T WANT TO SKATE IN MY STINKY OLD UNIFORM. I WANT TO GET MY OUTFIT FROM HOME
WHY DO I HAVE TO SKATE WITH THESE LITTLE BRATS
WHY
2-1 ASUKA
oh ha

Today on TV I am watching the World Figure skating Championships It is March 17th, 1991 Midori Ito just performed a triple lutz. Watching her makes my heart pound These matches make me so anxious

The four girls from our country in the World Figure Skating Competition look like they're flying over the ice. It's so cool (I love the French girls too!) ♥

The accidents they get into look really bad » (Especially Midori Ito's – she fell into the opening boards after one of her jump combinations went wrong. It looks painful.)

It's incredible how well these ladies perform under pressure. I wish I could do it do (I wish they were right in front of me!)

I think I'll go to a skating rink to learn to do some basic compulsories! It'll help me write my figure skating manga. At least that's what I think.

(In reality I could never do that stuff! I can only draw manga, kind of.)

One time I did manage to make a small jump and for the split second I was airborne I loved it

*COMPULSORY = USED TO BE A COMPETITION IN WHICH A SKATER HAD TO DRAW A FIGURE ON THE ICE WITH THEIR SKATES

AWESOME

THESE LITTLE KIDS ARE LEARNING TO SKATE?

I WONDER IF THIS IS WHERE HE LEARNED TO SKATE WHEN HE WAS LITTLE

OKAY, LINE UP!

I WONDER IF HE USED TO COME THIS RINK WHEN HE WAS A LITTLE BOY

HAVE YOU EVER DONE A COMPULSORY?*

WELL NOW

NO. BUT THAT'S DRAWING A FIGURE ON THE ICE, RIGHT? I HEARD THEY DON'T DO THOSE AT COMPETITIONS ANYMORE

*NOTE: MIDORI ITO IS A REALLY FAMOUS JAPANESE FIGURE SKATER. AFTER THE COMPETITION NAOKO WRITES ABOUT SHE WENT ON TO BEAT KRISTY YAMAGUCHI BY COMPLETING A TRIPLE AXEL AND GIVE OTHER TRIPLE JUMPS - SHE ALSO LANDED A TRIPLE AXEL / TRIPLE TOE LOOP JUMP COMBINATION THAT HAS NEVER BEEN SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED BY ANOTHER FIGURE SKATER TO THIS VERY DAY.

AH! WELL I KNOW ONE! MY DAD TAUGHT IT TO ME. I CAN DO A FIGURE EIGHT.
THEY ALSO TRASH THE RINK ICE. BUT THEY'RE A FOUNDATION OF FIGURE SKATING. IF YOU CAN'T DO THOSE, FREE SKATING IS IMPOSSIBLE
THAT'S BECAUSE THEY'RE BORING AND SPECTATORS DON'T WANT TO WATCH
Paragraph Bracket
4-0a
A PARAGRAPH BRACKET. THAT'S THE MOST DIFFICULT TURN YOU CAN DO AT A COMPULSORY
SHE DID A REALLY NICE FIGURE EIGHT
LOOK, LOOK
swish
2-1 ASUKA
NOW SHE'S MAKING A TWO. .NO, A FOUR TURN BRACKET
JUMP
OH, SORRY!
BUMP
HER FIGURES ARE PERFECTLY EXECUTED EVEN AT HIGH SPEED. HAS SHE ALREADY MASTERED THIS FOUNDATION?

OH HEY, LONG TIME NO SEE! I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU HER SINCE YOU QUIT THE CLUB
TSUZUKI! ♡
WHO'S THAT GIRL?
THEY'RE SO SMALL
PUBLIC SKATING IS NOW OVER. THE RINK IS TO BE CLEARED FOR CLUB MEMBER USE ONLY AT THIS TIME
I SEE. WELL, WE'LL BE ON OUR WAY..
STARE
I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT HER
HMPH SO THIS IS THE LITLE GIRL YOU'RE PRACTICING WITH
AH, SHE'S NOT IN THE CLUB
HEY GET OFF OF THE RINK, YOU'RE IN THE WAY
CLICK
EVERYONE'S ALREADY CLEARED THE RINK THOUGH
OH!
IT'S TIME FOR THE PRINCESS TO PERFORM!
THEY'RE STILL IN THE BEGINNERS CLASS SO THEY CAN'T ENTER THE CLUB
THANKS SO MUCH!
IT'S OVER FOR THE KIDS TOO?
WAIT HERE A SECOND, I'M GOING TO THE MAIN OFFICE

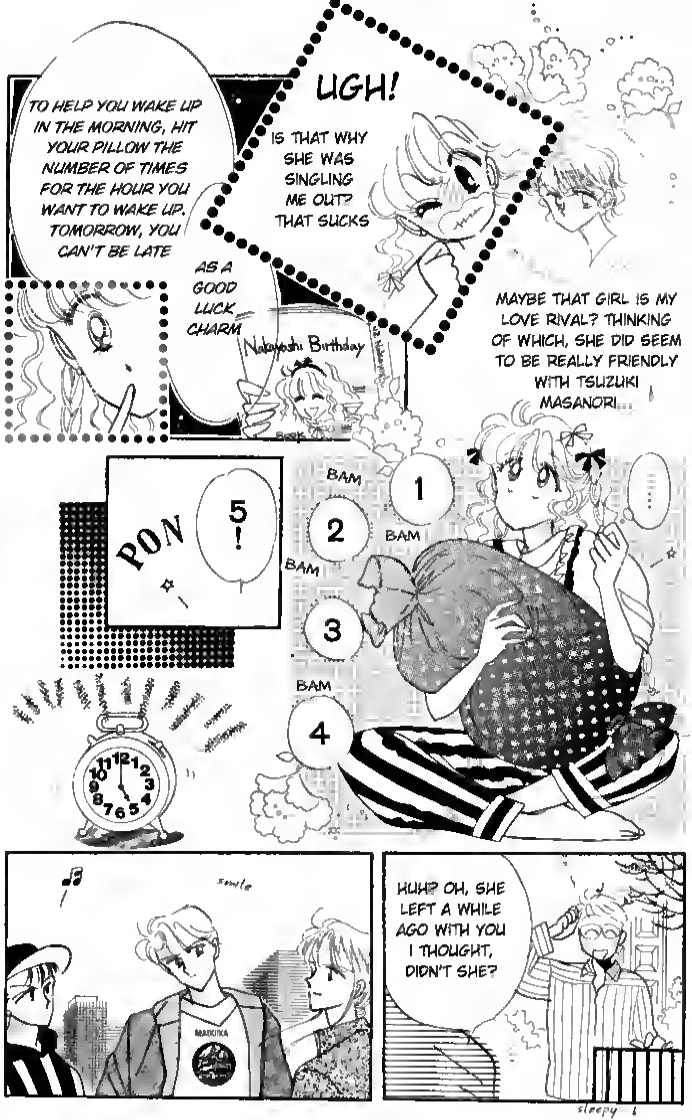
A FLYING CAMEL SPIN
swoosh
THEN A SIT SPIN
WHENEVER I SEE HER SHE TAKES MY BREATH AWAY.
HER SKATING IS JUST BEAUTIFUL - THE PRINCESS!

A BEILLMANN SPIN
WHAT, SHE'S STILL GOING?!
A LAYBACK
SHE'S REALLY BEAUTIFUL, FLOATING AROUND LIKE A BUTTERFLY
SHE LOOKS LIKE SHE FEELS REALLY GOOD WHEN SHE'S SKATING

swish
!
swish
I CAN REACH MY SHOES TO MY HEAD TOO!
BUT HEY
2 AS 7
BAOUM
BAOUM
BAOUM
SHE REALLY IS A CLUB MEMBER, SHE CAN LIFT HER LEGS SO DELICATELY
The play time is over!*
* IN THIS PANEL THE CHARACTER IS SPEAKING ENGLISH.
I WAS SO SURPRISED WHEN I SAW YOU CAME TO MY OFFICE. ARE YOU GOING TO BEGIN TRAINING HERE AGAIN?
TSUZUKI!
DID SHE JUST SPEAK ENGLISH?!

MEAN!
THAT'S REALLY THE GIRL YOU BROUGHT WITH YOU?
I'M HER ATTENDANT
!
WAIT, BUT NOW SHE'S SPEAKING JAPANESE. SHE'S BLONDE LIKE AKIYAMA KOUICHI, WHO IS HALF JAPANESE AND HALF AMERICAN
WEIRD
BLUSH
DON'T HAVE THE PROPER ATTIRE, I CAN LEND YOU SOMETHING. YOU LOOK REALLY BAD IN THAT.
IF YOU
I'M NOT REALLY SERIOUS ABOUT SKATING LIKE YOU TWO ARE, I'M ONLY PRACTICING FOR THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL BECAUSE I HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE
T-THAT'S FINE

——You should not do sacred skating!
PUSH
SHE'S SOOO MEAAAAAAN
W-WHAT THE HELL?!
WHY IS SHE LECTURING ME AND GETTING IN MY FACE?!
I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING TO HER!
"BE ESPECIALLY CAREFUL ON THE 17TH, AS THAT IS WHEN YOU WILL MEET A SERIOUS LOVE RIVAL"
- TODAY'S THE 17TH. .THAT GIRL TODAY...MY LOVE RIVAL?!
"WHATEVER YOU DO THIS WEEK, BIG OBSTACLES WILL GET YOUR IN PATH."
- OBSTACLES?!
~~?!


TO HELP YOU WAKE UP IN THE MORNING, HIT YOUR PILLOW THE NUMBER OF TIMES FOR THE HOUR YOU WANT TO WAKE UP. TOMORROW, YOU CAN'T BE LATE
AS A GOOD LUCK CHARM
Nakayoshi Birthday
UGH!
IS THAT WHY SHE WAS SINGLING ME OUT? THAT SUCKS
MAYBE THAT GIRL IS MY LOVE RIVAL? THINKING OF WHICH, SHE DID SEEM TO BE REALLY FRIENDLY WITH TSUZUKI MASANORI...
PON 5!
BAM 1
BAM 2
BAM 3
BAM 4
smile
MARUKA
HUH? OH, SHE LEFT A WHILE AGO WITH YOU I THOUGHT, DIDN'T SHE?
sleepy

SKATE RIN
IT'S JUST AS I THOUGHT. THERE'S NO ONE HERE THIS EARLY IN THE MORNING. I DON'T KNOW WHO THE PRINCESS THINKS SHE IS, BUT
hmph!
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO ABOUT MY RIVAL ?
SO ACCORDING TO OUR PLAN...
SHE'S AT THE RINK I BET
IT LOOKS LIKE THE THIRD STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT, THE PLANNED MEETING WITH THE PRINCESS, WAS A SUCCESS
AND THAT GIRL MAKES ME FEEL STUPID. IF I ONLY I COULD DO WHAT SHE DOES...
I KNOW THIS IS BAD, BUT ENGLISH SOUNDS LIKE GIBBERISH TO ME
HMM, HOW'S THIS?
swish

!
I FEEL LIKE I CAN DO ANYTHING NOW
THIS IS AMAZING
I LIKE SKATING ON THE RINK ALL BY MYSELF
AND NOW FOR CHIERI'S SIGNATURE MOVE, THE TRIPLE AXEL!
THIS FEELS AMAZING

AHAHAHAHA
giggle giggle
THUD
haha
owwwwww
H-HOW CAN YOU BE LAUGHING AT ME?
ow ow ow
ouch
YOU'RE MEAN
!
THAT JUMP SHE JUST DID
swish
WHO ARE YOU? WHAT IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO TSUZUKI?
WITH PRACTICE SHE CAN EVENTUALLY PULL OFF A QUADRUPLE
ARE YOU
TRYING TO CHALLENGE ME?

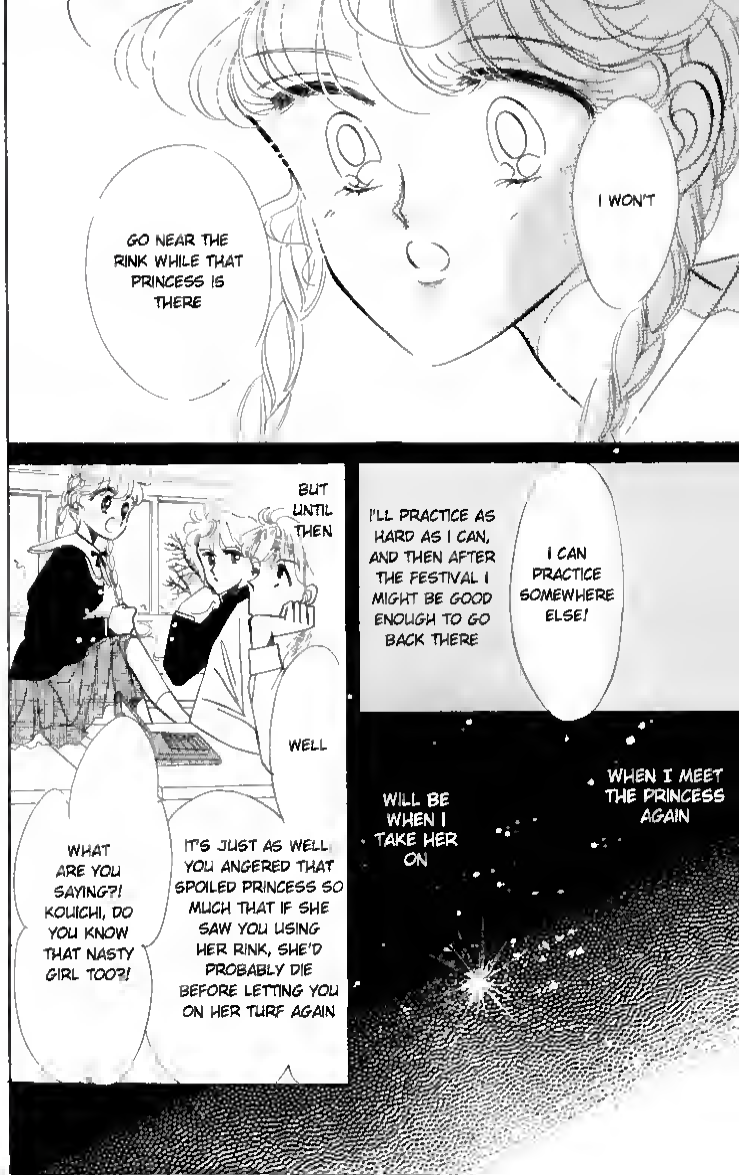
I'M NOT HERE TO CHALLENGE YOU. I'M JUST TRYING TO BECOME THE BEST I CAN BE (OR AT LEAST PRETENDING)
MY COACH!
TSUZUKI IS
BUT I CAN'T STAND PEOPLE WHO FIGURE SKATE ONLY FOR FUN
YOU'RE CONFIDENT
NOT EVEN WITH FIVE MILLION YEARS OF PRACTICE
WITH YOUR LIMITATIONS, YOU COULD NEVER HOPE TO BECOME MY RIVAL

I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU IN MY RINK AGAIN, YOU LOSER!
DON'T SHOW YOUR FACE HERE AGAIN
WHAT
IS THIS SUPPOSED TO SHOW ME HOW GREAT IT IS TO BE PART OF A SKATING CLUB? WHAT THE HELL IS THAT GIRL'S PROBLEM?!
WHY DOES SHE SAY SUCH MEAN THINGS LIKE THAT TO ME?!
!
HEY
MADUKA

TREATING ME LIKE I'M STUPID
I'LL NEVER, NEVER GIVE IN TO HER!
AND THEN JUST WALKING OFF
YOU HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL, RIGHT MS PRESIDENT?
WHO CARES ABOUT THE AFFAIRS OF THIS OTHER GIRL? DIDN'T YOU KNOW
!
WE AREN'T EVEN READY FOR THE FESTIVAL AT ALL
THAT'S RIGHT
WE HAVE TO MAKE THE FESTIVAL A HUGE SUCCESS!
AND AFTER THAT, I'M GOING TO TAKE THAT GIRL DOWN!

I'M GOING TO CHALLENGE THE PRINCESS!
I'M DEFINITELY DOING THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL!
SO YOU'RE FINALLY SERIOUS
FOLLOW US

2 – 2
conference on progress
3 weeks until the festival
ENOUGH WITH ALL THE BASICS!
I WANT TO HURRY AND GET TO PRACTICING MY ROUTINE! OTHERWISE I WON'T BE READY IN TIME FOR THE FESTIVAL!
OF COURSE I AM!
DON'T BE SO HASTY. LEAVE EVERYTHING TO US
YOU MAY NOT LIKE THIS, BUT FROM NOW ON YOU WILL ONLY BE PRACTICING AT THE RINK


I WON'T
GO NEAR THE RINK WHILE THAT PRINCESS IS THERE
I CAN PRACTICE SOMEWHERE ELSE!
I'LL PRACTICE AS HARD AS I CAN, AND THEN AFTER THE FESTIVAL I MIGHT BE GOOD ENOUGH TO GO BACK THERE
WHEN I MEET THE PRINCESS AGAIN
WILL BE WHEN I TAKE HER ON
BUT UNTIL THEN
WELL
IT'S JUST AS WELL YOU ANGERED THAT SPOILED PRINCESS SO MUCH THAT IF SHE SAW YOU USING HER RINK, SHE'D PROBABLY DIE BEFORE LETTING YOU ON HER TURF AGAIN
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?! KOUICHI, DO YOU KNOW THAT NASTY GIRL TOO?!

PRINCESS CANTY
NATIONALITY: JAPANESE
BELONGS TO TAKANAWA WING SKATING CLUB. BEGAN SKATING AT THE AGE OF TWO AND A HALF YEARS OLD
type
type
EVERYONE CALLS HER PRINCESS CANTY
SHE'S THE DAUGHTER OF THE RINK'S OWNER.
ALL JAPAN JUNIOR CHAMPION AT AGE 8
EEK, THAT'S AMAZING
CURRENTLY WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPION FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW
YOU KNOW, EVEN IF SHE WANTED TO GO TO ANOTHER RINK
THERE ARE NO OTHER RINKS TO GO TO
DON'T BE SO STUBBORN TSUZUKI
IF YOU KNOW OF ANOTHER RINK THEN HURRY UP AND TELL US
YEAH! IF WE'RE GOING TO DO THIS, LET'S DO IT NOW TSUZUKI!
wag wag

WHAT?!
YOU HAVE A RINK IN YOUR HOUSE?!
WOW, YOUR HOUSE IS HUGE TSUZUKI!
Later
SO HEY. IS THIS RESERVED JUST FOR OUR USE? I BET IT IS, ISN'T IT? WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST TELL US YOU HAD A PRIVATE RINK FROM THE VERY BEGINNING!
HE HAS AN ORDINARY JOB
IT WAS BUILT FOR ME AFTER I BECAME A JUNIOR CHAMPION
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS! WHAT DOES YOUR FATHER DO FOR A LIVING?! HOW CAN HE AFFORD THIS?

WOW, AMAZING!
——Don't tell a lie!
THAT YOU NEVER INTENDED TO SHOW THIS TO ANYONE EXCEPT YOUR NEW SKATING PARTNER?
YOU SAID YOU WOULD NEVER BRING A STRANGER HERE UNLESS YOU WERE SERIOUS ABOUT THEM
WELL, I'M NOT SURE ABOUT CHIERI YET BUT
I'M JUST GOING ALONG WITH YOUR PLAN
THE PLAN REMAINS TO BE DECIDED

HERE IS THE SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY OF THE FESTIVAL EVENT
YOU WILL SKATE TWICE, WITH A ONE HOUR BREAK IN BETWEEN PERIODS. DURING THAT IME, THE RINK WILL BE OPEN FOR INTERMISSION
SHOW TIME BEGINS AT 1 PM. SKATING TIME IS TEN MINUTES
WHAT!
SERIOUSLY ?!
EVERYONE IN CLASS WILL BE SKATING TOGETHER AS A GROUP
SO WHAT HAVE YOU DECIDED TO DO ABOUT THE RINK SITUATION?
YOU'LL SEE ON THE DAY OF THE FESTIVAL ♡
WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO ABOUT THAT
CLACK
BUT

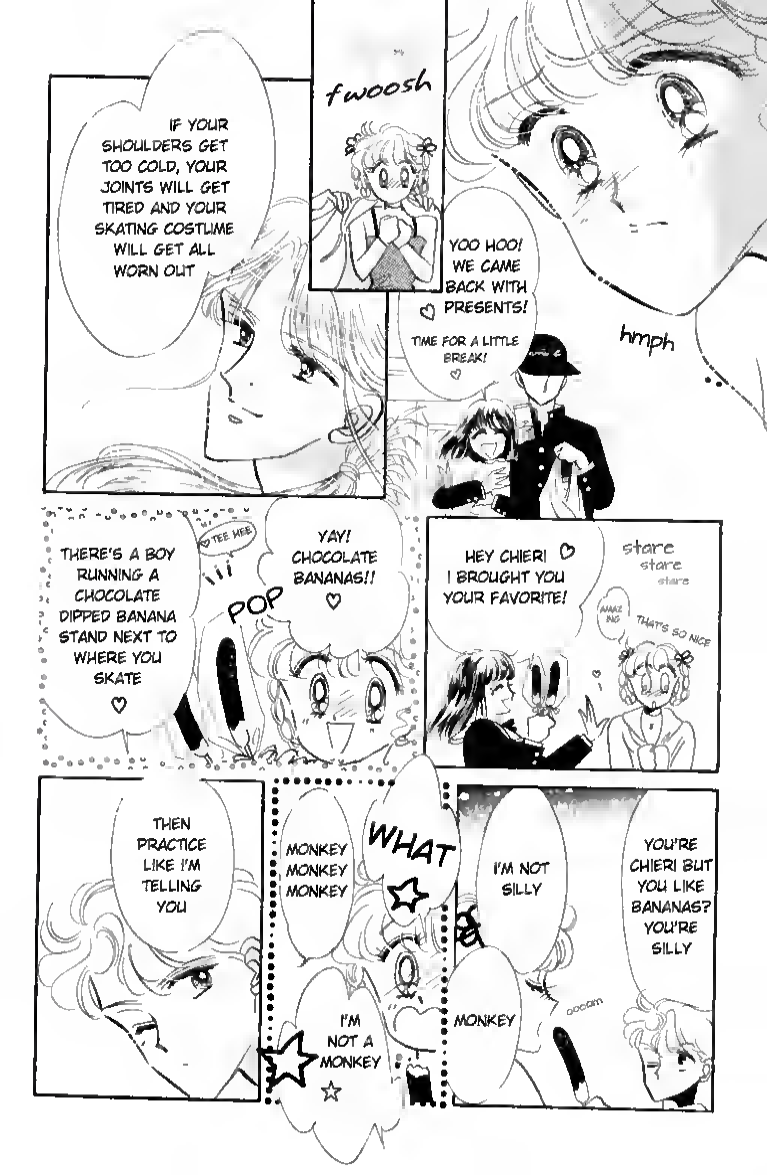
HMM, THIS IS REALLY NICE, LIGHT ROCK. DO YOU THINK THIS SUITS CHIERI'S PERSONALITY?
I CAN DANCE TO THIS
THAT'S THE MUSIC TAPE I MADE
click
OH! THE MUSIC JUST CHANGED.
NOW IT'S A PIANO VERSION... OF THE SAME SONG?!
HUH
swish
BADUM

swish
...badum
AH! IT'S THAT SONG AGAIN!. COMING UP NEXT IS THE PERCUSSION? THIS PART IS REALLY BRIEF
click
click
badum badum
OH WOW, THE MUSIC HAS CHANGED AGAIN! NOW ITS A PRECUSSION VERSION OF THE SONG
EACH VERSION IS REALLY SHORT, I LOVE IT! SO MANY DIFFERENT RHYTHMS AND INSTRUMENTS FOR THE SAME SONG. OH CHIERI, THIS SONG DOES SUIT YOU!
IT'S REALLY WONDERFUL
WHY WOULD HE EVER QUIT? IT'S SUCH A WASTE
badum badum
BEING ABLE TO WATCH HIM SKATE AGAIN
badum badum

THAT'S THE KIND OF FEELING YOU HAVE TO DEPEND ON TO SUCCEED
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN EVER SKATE THAT WELL
CRINKLE
HUH
fwoosh
DID YOU SEE IT - THAT FEELING?
HAVEN'T YOU SEEN A SKATING PROGRAM BEFORE?
WHAT'S THIS?
I HAD NO IDEA! WHAT DO ALL THESE SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS MEAN?
I'LL SHOW YOU BY EXAMPLE HOW THIS WORKS
WE HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE. FOR NOW WE'LL DO THE ROUTINE WITHOUT MUSIC
GRAB
ACK
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
OKAY I'LL GO WITH YOU
EEK

STARTING TODAY WE'RE GOING TO SKATE ACCOMPANIED BY MUSIC
WHEN YOU PRACTICE THIS ROUTINE, MAKE IT SMOOTH AND PRECISE
AS USUAL, CHIERI'S JUMPS ARE HIGH - JUST AS HIGH AS TSUZUKI'S
THREE JUMP!
OH!
I LOVE SYNTH DRUMS AND UPBEAT SONGS - I LIKE THIS A LOT!
NOW FOR A TRIPLE - I KNOW I CAN DO IT THIS TIME!

twirl
AAAAACK!
TRIP!
YOU ALWAYS DO ONE MORE SPIN THAN I TELL YOU TO, AND END UP TWISTING YOUR BODY TOO MUCH
YOU DON'T NEED TO DO THAT KIND OF JUMP RIGHT NOW
JUST SKATE LIKE I TELL YOU WITHOUT ADDING EXTRA FLOURISHES
STOP!
WELL I WANT TO DO SHOWIER JUMPS! I WANT TO BE ABLE TO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE THE MOVES!
I WANT TO PRACTICE THOSE JUMPS
DON'T YOU STILL NEED TO IMPROVE YOUR FORM?
WHAT YOU WILL PRACTICE IS ALREADY DECIDED. NOW, LET'S KEEP GOING!


IF YOUR SHOULDERS GET TOO COLD, YOUR JOINTS WILL GET TIRED AND YOUR SKATING COSTUME WILL GET ALL WORN OUT
fwoosh
YOO HOO! WE CAME BACK WITH PRESENTS!
TIME FOR A LITTLE BREAK!
hmph
THERE'S A BOY RUNNING A CHOCOLATE DIPPED BANANA STAND NEXT TO WHERE YOU SKATE
HEE HEE
POP
YAY! CHOCOLATE BANANAS!!
HEY CHIER! I BROUGHT YOU YOUR FAVORITE!
stare
stare
stare
AMAZING
THAT'S SO NICE
THEN PRACTICE LIKE I'M TELLING YOU
MONKEY MONKEY MONKEY
WHAT
I'M NOT A MONKEY
I'M NOT SILLY
MONKEY
ooom
YOU'RE CHIER! BUT YOU LIKE BANANAS? YOU'RE SILLY

KOUICHI, DO YOU HAVE YOUR CELL PHONE WITH YOU?
OH YEAH
YUP
IT'S FINE
THERE'S NOBODY HOME, AND BESIDES, I'VE MADE STRICT INSTRUCTIONS THAT I AM NOT TO BE INTERRUPTED WHILE I'M IN HERE. I'VE REMOVED ALL THE PHONES BECAUSE THEY'RE TOO NOISY.
ARE YOU REALLY OKAY WITH THIS? IT'S GETTING PRETTY LATE - IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR DINNER, RIGHT?
GRRR
♥ A PERSON WITH THE A BLOOD TYPE HAS HIGH EXPECTATIONS AND GETS JEALOUS. NEEDS TO CONFRONT REALITY
WON'T HELP YOU AT ALL, ONLY WORK YOU TO THE BONE
HE'S SUCH A TYPICAL TYPE A GUY
HELLO? IT'S ME. HOW IS THE CONSTRUCTION GOING?
WHAAT, WHY?!
ANYWAY, I THINK WE'VE PRACTICED ENOUGH JUMPS FOR TODAY
♣ A B BLOOD TYPE IS EASILY EXCITED AND LOOSES INTEREST. THERE ARE FESTIVE B'S AND SERIOUS B'S. WHICH ARE YOU?
THAT'S NOT VERY NICE
WELL, SOMEBODY IS ALSO QUITE THE TYPICAL B TYPE...
A FESTIVE B, I MIGHT ADD

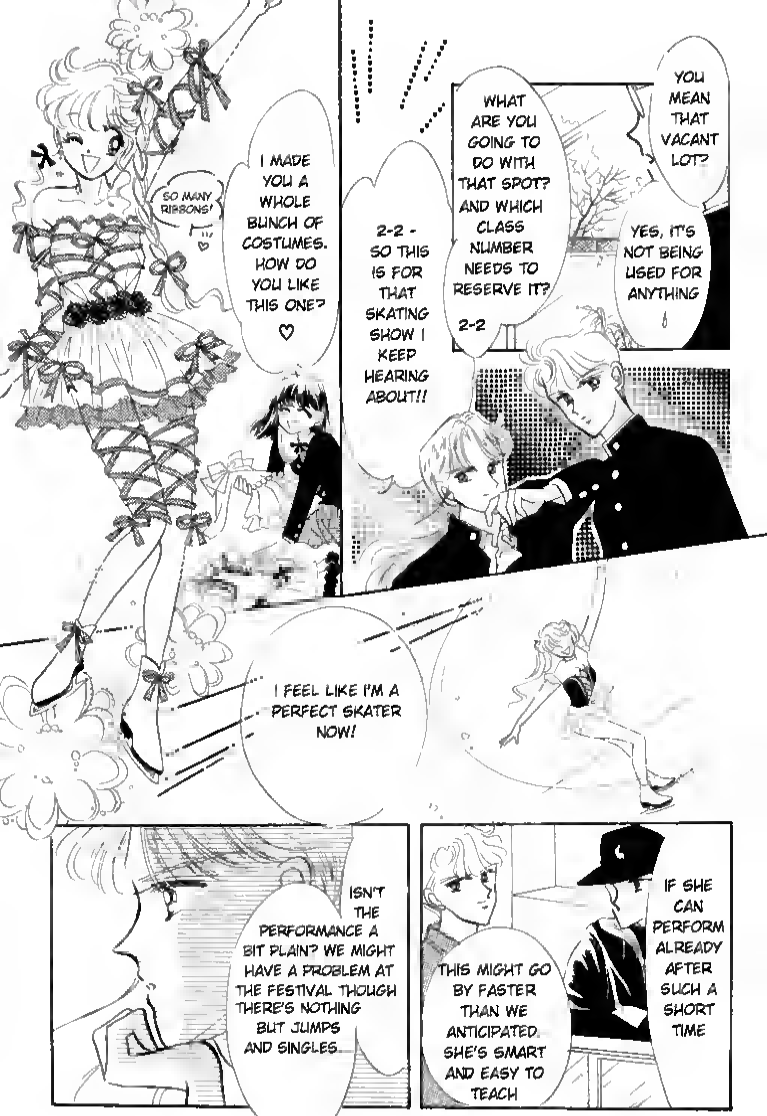
HEH HEH. I LEARNED ALL ABOUT FIGURE SKATING A LONG TIME AGO, WITH TSUZUKI
YOU KNOW A LOT!
HUH
IF YOU CONTINUE TO DO JUMPS WHILE YOUR FORM ISN'T ON PAR, THEN YOUR YOUR LANDINGS WILL PUT WEIGHT ON YOUR BODY IN UNNATURAL WAYS, AND YOU CAN SERIOUSLY INJURE YOUR HIPS
YOU HAVE TO BE CAREFUL
THEY'RE AS PASSIONATE AS O TYPES BUT EASILY FRUSTRATED
THERE ARE THOSE WHO CAN BECOME FAMOUS EVEN WITHOUT A LOT OF EFFORT OR BY BUILDING A LONG CAREER
I DID
PEOPLE WHO ARE TYPE AS HATE TO TAKE CHANCES
AND HIROSHI TOO?
WELL, I THINK I STARTED AT THE BEGINNING OF JUNIOR HIGH
YOU'VE BEEN SKATING SINCE YOU WERE LITTLE TOO, RIGHT CHIERI?
HEY, EXCUSE ME!
I CAN HEAR YOU YOU KNOW!
IF SHE HAD PRACTICED FOR A LONG TIME, SHE'D BE A LOT BETTER THAN SHE IS NOW
BUT THIS IS MY FIRST TIME ACTUALLY FIGURE SKATING
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE LIKE TSUZUKI

badum
THE SAME BIRTHDAY?!
HEY - YOU GUYS HAVE THE SAME BIRTHDAY, SHOULDN'T YOU BE GETTING ALONG BETTER?
shine
WE HAVE THE SAME BIRTHDAY?
THAT'S AMAZING, REALLY AMAZING
badum badum
...NO WAY...
IF YOU FALL, YOU COULD GET INJURED FROM THAT NECKLACE. TAKE IT OFF WHEN YOU'RE SKATING
badum badum
IT'S LIKE ITS DESTINY
LET'S TAKE A BREAK, AND WE'LL GO BACK TO PRACTICING AFTER THAT

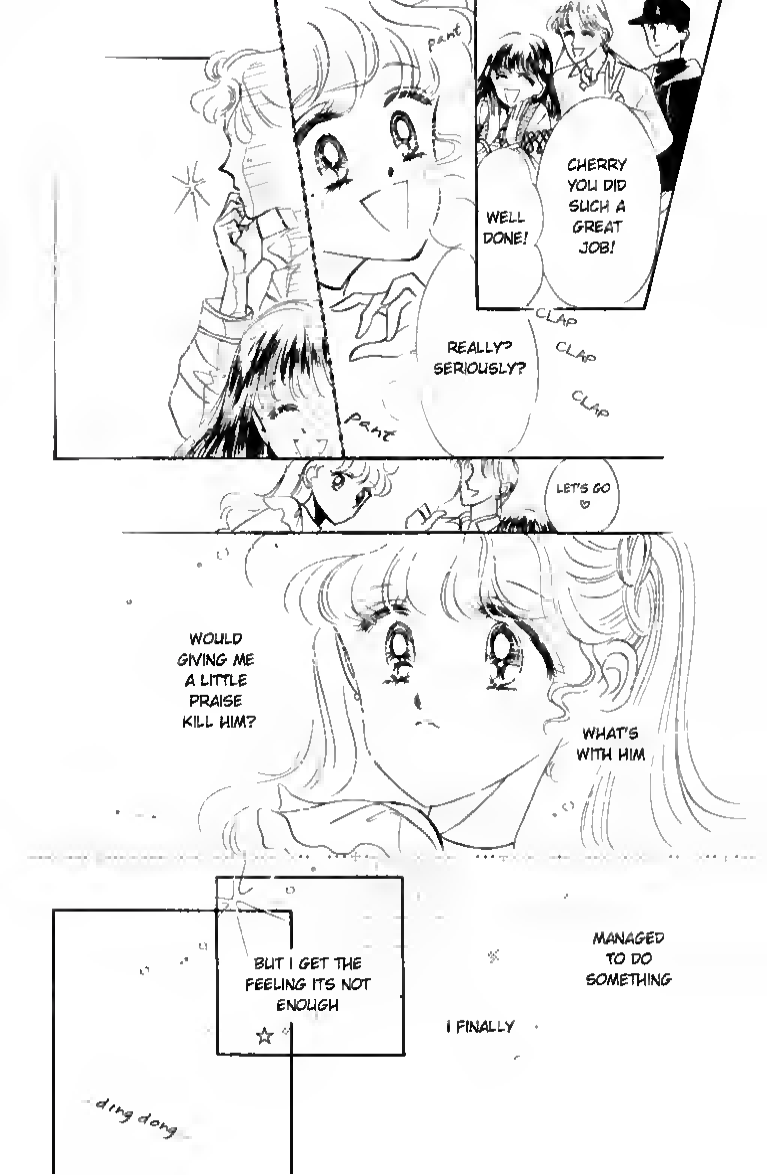
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!
THE MUSIC'S ABOUT TO BEGIN
WHEN TSUZUKI PUT MY MOM'S PENDANT ON ME, I KNEW I COULDN'T TAKE IT OFF AGAIN
W-WHAT
...NO
THIS IS MY GOOD LUCK CHARM
badum
DON'T STAGGER
ACK...
GRAB
badum
YOUR ARMS SHOULD BE UP A LITTLE HIGHER
AND FOR A SPIRAL, YOU NEED TO KEEP YOUR KNEES LOCKED STRAIGHT
GRAB
badum
badum
badum
badum

DON'T YOU SERIOUSLY WANT TO DO THIS?
YOU'RE TOUCHING ME!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, 'NO'
NO
YES!
I'M SORRY!
GASP
THAT'S RIGHT
I'VE DECIDED I'M GOING TO GO AFTER HER

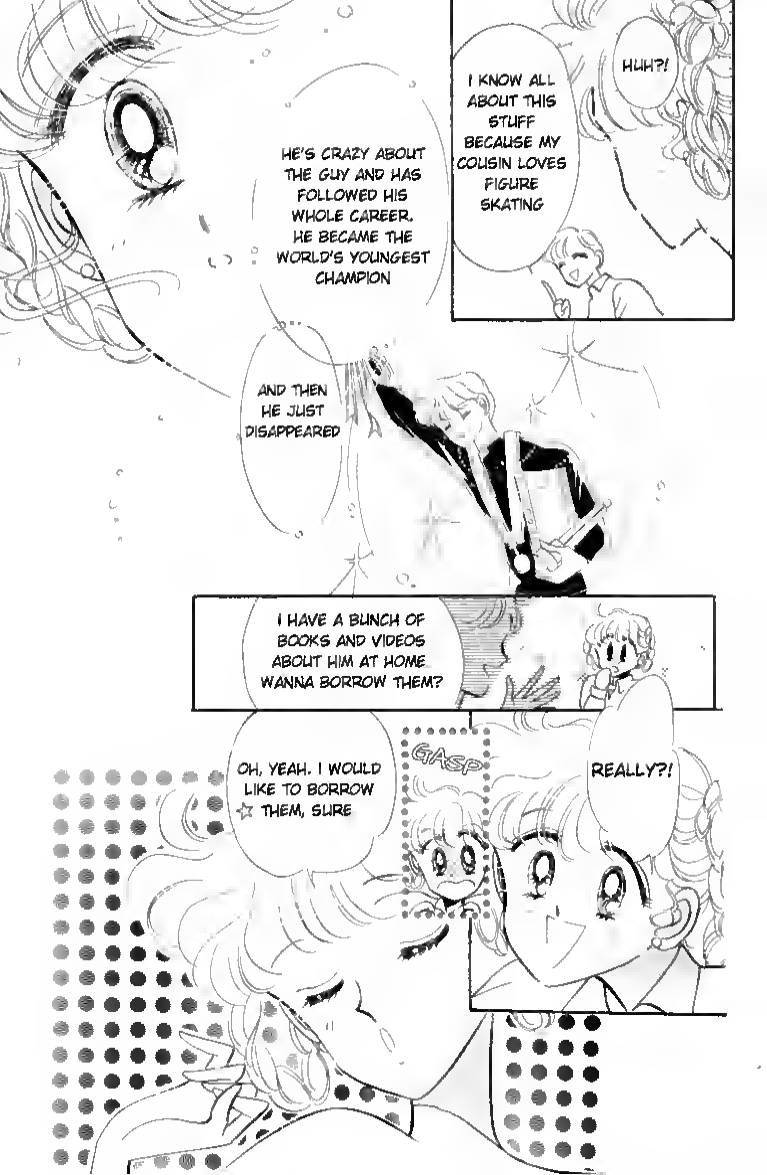
I WILL BECOME BETTER THAN THAT PRINCESS
THE PRINCESS IS ON THE PHONE!
HEY, IT'S ME
HEY YOU
HELLO?
THAT GIRL IS PRACTICING AT TSUZUKI'S PLACE?!
2-2
FIGURE SKATING
slide
MAIN OFFICE
ALL RIGHT, THE GEOLOGY DEPARTMENT HAS 20 DARK CURTAINS WE CAN USE
whisper whisper
EXCUSE US - WE'D LIKE A PERMIT TO USE THE VACANT LOT BEHIND THE SCHOOL PLEASE


SO MANY RIBBONS!
I MADE YOU A WHOLE BUNCH OF COSTUMES. HOW DO YOU LIKE THIS ONE? ♡
2-2 - SO THIS IS FOR THAT SKATING SHOW I KEEP HEARING ABOUT!!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THAT SPOT? AND WHICH CLASS NUMBER NEEDS TO RESERVE IT?
2-2
YOU MEAN THAT VACANT LOT?
YES, IT'S NOT BEING USED FOR ANYTHING
I FEEL LIKE I'M A PERFECT SKATER NOW!
ISN'T THE PERFORMANCE A BIT PLAIN? WE MIGHT HAVE A PROBLEM AT THE FESTIVAL THOUGH THERE'S NOTHING BUT JUMPS AND SINGLES
THIS MIGHT GO BY FASTER THAN WE ANTICIPATED. SHE'S SMART AND EASY TO TEACH
IF SHE CAN PERFORM ALREADY AFTER SUCH A SHORT TIME

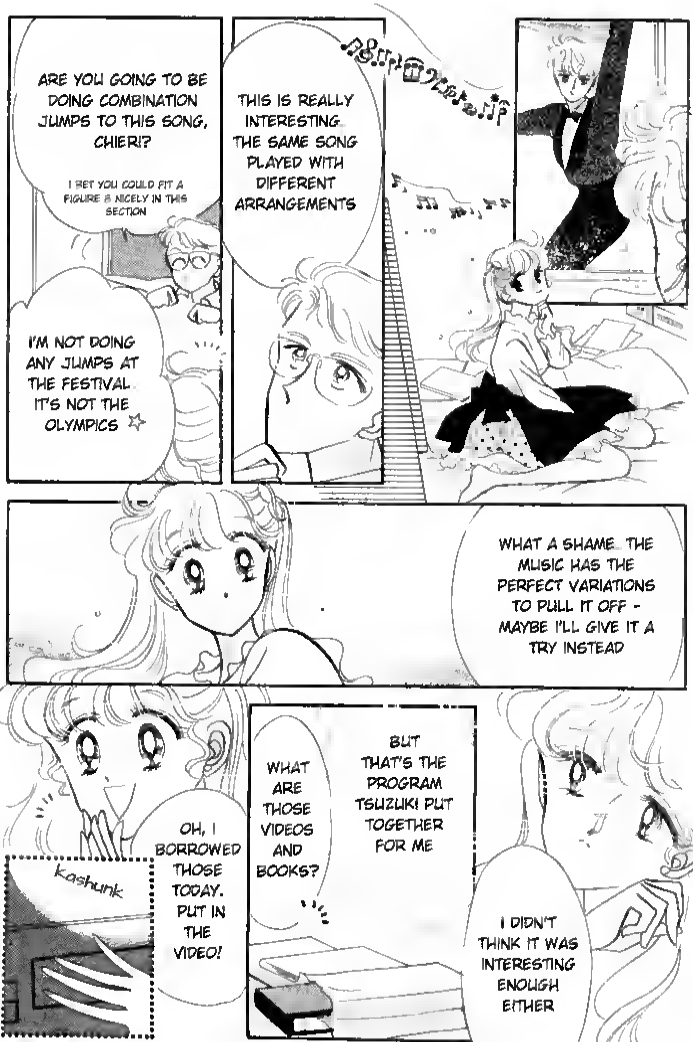
THE PROGRAM FOR THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL MIGHT BE A BIT PLAIN, BUT SINCE THE STAGE IS JUST FOR OUR CLASSMATES, IT'S GOOD ENOUGH
WE'VE BEEN DRILLING HER ON ALL THE BASIC NECESSARY TECHNIQUES. HER FOUNDATION IS WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT.
THAT'S WHY THERE ARE NO ADVANCED JUMPS OR SPINS
SO WE'VE FINISHED THE FOURTH STAGE OF THE PLAN
HUH?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
SHE ALWAYS LOOKS SO HAPPY WHEN SHE'S SKATING ♡
I DON'T THINK THE PROGRAM IS TOO PLAIN. NO MATTER WHAT YOU HAVE CHIERI DO SHE LOOKS HAPPY AND CUTE DOING IT
DON'T YOU THINK SHE LOOKS GREAT WHENEVER ♡ SHE'S HAPPY DOING WHAT SHE LOVES? THAT'S A SHOW IN AND OF ITSELF


pant
CHERRY YOU DID SUCH A GREAT JOB!
WELL DONE!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
REALLY? SERIOUSLY?
pant
LET'S GO ♡
WOULD GIVING ME A LITTLE PRAISE KILL HIM?
WHAT'S WITH HIM
BUT I GET THE FEELING ITS NOT ENOUGH
I FINALLY
MANAGED TO DO SOMETHING
ding dong

THWAK THWAK THWAK BANG
Tsuzuki Construction Group
Tsuzuki Construction Group
TSUZUKI CONSTRUCTION GROUP?
THEY'RE BUILDING SOMETHING BEHIND THE SCHOOL
IT'S SO LOUD
WOO HOO!
KOUICHI IS SO COOL! HE'S LIKE A MODEL!
♡
BUT HIROSHI IS THE COOLEST ONE!
OHHH
WOO HOO!
I LIKE TSUZUKI THE BEST! CHIERI'S LUCKY, SHE ALWAYS GETS TO SPEND TIME WITH THEM ALL!
OHHH
I CAN'T SAY THIS OUT LOUD
BUT I HATE TSUZUKI'S PERSONALITY
HE'S HORRIBLE!
☆
HE'S NOT AT ALL HOW I IMAGINED HIM WHEN LOOKING AT HIS PICTURE
☆
HE'S POPULAR, ALL THE GIRLS CALL HIM THE "PRINCE WITH THE POKER FACE"


HUH?!
I KNOW ALL ABOUT THIS STUFF BECAUSE MY COUSIN LOVES FIGURE SKATING
HE'S CRAZY ABOUT THE GUY AND HAS FOLLOWED HIS WHOLE CAREER. HE BECAME THE WORLD'S YOUNGEST CHAMPION
AND THEN HE JUST DISAPPEARED
I HAVE A BUNCH OF BOOKS AND VIDEOS ABOUT HIM AT HOME WANNA BORROW THEM?
GASP
REALLY?!
OH, YEAH. I WOULD LIKE TO BORROW ☆ THEM, SURE

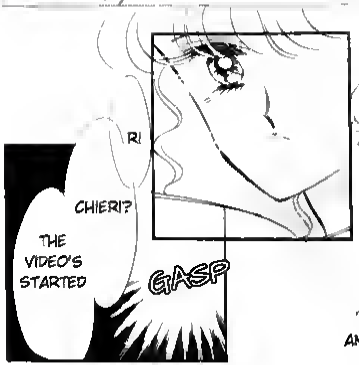
I WONDER IF I CAN REALLY DO THIS
I'M GETTING NERVOUS
Ba-dum
Ba-dum
BYE BYE
BYE
ding dong
SHIBA DAIMON-CHŪ
WOW, YOU'RE PUTTING UP AN ARCH
YUP. TOMORROW'S THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL
FESTI VAL
DON'T WORRY YOU'RE GOING TO DO FINE
YEAH


ARE YOU GOING TO BE DOING COMBINATION JUMPS TO THIS SONG, CHIERI?
I BET YOU COULD FIT A FIGURE 8 NICELY IN THIS SECTION
I'M NOT DOING ANY JUMPS AT THE FESTIVAL. IT'S NOT THE OLYMPICS ☆
THIS IS REALLY INTERESTING. THE SAME SONG PLAYED WITH DIFFERENT ARRANGEMENTS
WHAT A SHAME. THE MUSIC HAS THE PERFECT VARIATIONS TO PULL IT OFF - MAYBE I'LL GIVE IT A TRY INSTEAD
kashunk
OH, I BORROWED THOSE TODAY. PUT IN THE VIDEO!
WHAT ARE THOSE VIDEOS AND BOOKS?
BUT THAT'S THE PROGRAM TSUZUKI PUT TOGETHER FOR ME
I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS INTERESTING ENOUGH EITHER

THE TALENTED YOUNG TSUZUKI BECAME THE YOUNGER EVER JUNIOR CHAMPION AT AGE 8

TSUZUKI MASANORI (6)
FIRST FORMAL COMPETITION

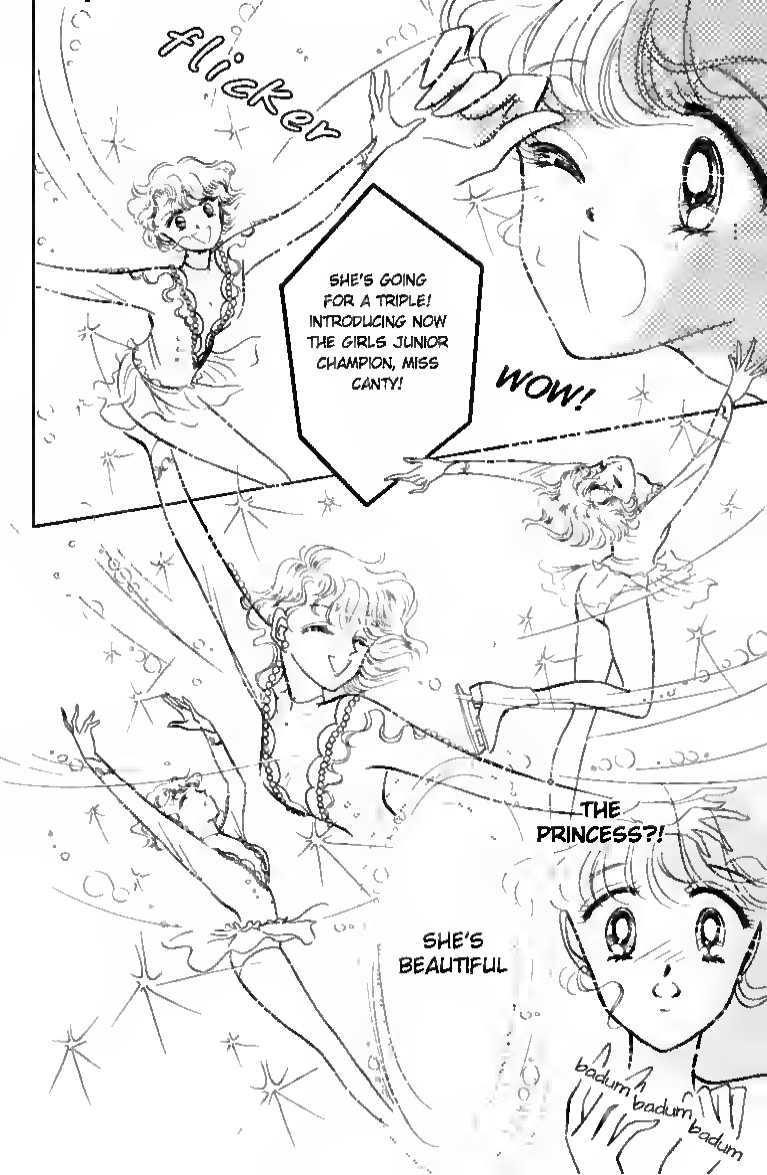
ALONG WITH THE GIRLS' JUNIOR CHAMPION MISS CANTY



AT THE WORLD TOURNMENT EXHIBITION, THE COUPLE WAS THE MOST POPULAR PAIR, WITH TSUZUKI MASANORI

AND MISS CATHY BECOMING CLOSE FRIENDS

EVEN THE BOYISH PRINCE WHO RARELY SMILES CAN'T RESIST BUT SMILING TODAY ON THE ICE, WHERE YOU'D NEVER GUESS THAT HE'S ONLY 12 YEARS OLD
WOW! SUCCESSIVE BACK FLIPS! HE'S SURE GOT A LOT OF ENERGY!
OH! THIS IS THE ONE I WENT TO SEE!
BADUM
BADUM
YAAAAA
AAY!
THIS TIME, HE'S GIVING HIS FANS A GREAT PERFORMANCE AS THE JUNIOR CHAMPION OF THE WINTER TOURNAMENT EXHIBITION
BZZZT
BZZZT
THE YOUNG PRINCE HAS SO MANY BOUQUETS FROM HIS FANS HE CAN'T CARRY THEM ALL!


flicker
SHE'S GOING FOR A TRIPLE! INTRODUCING NOW THE GIRLS JUNIOR CHAMPION, MISS CANTY!
WOW!
THE PRINCESS?!
SHE'S BEAUTIFUL
badum badum badum

WOOOOOW
SHE'S LOVELY ON THE ICE!
HER COMBINATION JUMP
HAS JUST BECOME A TRIPLE LUTZ!
AMAZING...HER SPEED IS INCREDIBLE, AND HER JUMP IS SO LIGHT AND AIRY
BADUM
THE WAY I AM
BADUM
NOT EVEN THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL
I CAN'T CHALLENGE THE PRINCESS
COMPARED TO HER, MY UPCOMING PROGRAM DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING IN IT. NO JUMPS, NO SPINS...
TRIPLE LUTZ = ONE OF THE HARDEST MOVES IN FIGURE SKATING. THE PARTICIPANT MUST START THE JUMP ON THE RIGHT FOOT AND END ON THE LEFT.

When I first began to serialize Chieri, I said 'Now accepting applications to do Chieri's costume design!' But everyone said 'You're out of your mind' and thanks to thousands of attempts (and some compromise thank you very much) I finally got the hang of it

To be honest I really really was inspired a lot during drawing this by dbae music. It makes me so happy...I'm so grateful to it (And thanks for all your postcards too...they're getting heavy!) Many of the outfits I make look like Chinese clothes crossed with fairy clothes...and she looks a bit like a bunny too.

I put way too many ribbons on Chieri's clothes. Thanks for helping me through my struggles with this design, Ms Akimo. Even right now on my desk I have a lot of design catalogues. Thank you to all of the illustrators out there who let me borrow them. I really love them!

MY HEART IS POUNDING
BADUM
I'M LEAVING NOW, MAMA!
TODAY I'M GOING TO GIVE IT MY ALL!
LET'S DO IT!
THAT'S RIGHT, TODAY I HAVE TO BRING THESE
YEAH
OH
whoosh
BADUM
BADUM
BADUM
IT'S FINALLY
THE DAY OF THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL
SHIBA DAIMON-CHŪ
next

THEY BUILT A RINK?!
2-2
Figure Skating Rink
Behind the school building!
We have skate shoes!
glimmer
WHAT
NO WAY THAT TSUZUKI CONSTRUCTION GROUP IS
YOU BUILT A RINK?! I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!!
shine
TSUZUKI!
WE FINISHED CONSTRUCTION IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT. IT'S SMALL BUT IT'LL DO
WELL, UM, UHH
YOUR FAMILY OWNS A CONSTRUCTION COMPANY?!
WANT TO TRY IT OUT?
AFTER ALL, IT IS THE RINK FOR THE CLASS PRESIDENT

slide
fwoosh
GRIP
FOR ME..
BADUM
NO!
THE PERFORMANCE I WATCHED LAST NIGHT OF THE PRINCESS IS IN MY HEAD
A TURN HERE
THEN THIS COMPLICATED STEP I PRACTICED WITH TSUZUKI
AND THEN..

OF COURSE I DID,
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
GRIP
twist
DID YOU SLEEP AT ALL LAST NIGHT?
Pat
I SEE
badum
WILL MAKE ME A SUCCESS AT THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL TODAY
THE PROGRAM TSUZUKI PUT TOGETHER
YEAH...
SO YOU DONT NEED TO OVER WORK YOURSELF
DO YOUR BEST
3 — 1 Crepe Stand
dizzy picture rolling
2-2
FIGURE SKATING
Fumi

GM
HEY!
I'M STILL CHANGING! GO WAIT RINK SIDE
YOU DRESSED YET?
How cute!
RIGHT?
YOU LOOK LIKE A WHOLE DIFFERENT PERSON
YOU'RE MEAN!
ISN'T SHE BEAUTIFUL, TSUZUKI?!
YEAH
OH
IT'S TIME. I'LL BE AT THE RINK

SHOULDN'T WE HEAD OVER TO THE RINK?
WELL PRINCESS
HE REALLY DOES HAVE A POKER FACE
HE'S SHY
HUH
ALL HE HAD TO SAY WAS, "YEAH" ..HE DIDN'T THINK ANYTHING ELSE ..?
CLASS 2-2? HEY, ISN'T THAT THE ONE PUTTING ON THE SKATING SHOW TODAY! I SAW THEIR FLYER! THEY EVEN BUILT A RINK, RIGHT?
SO COOL!
SHE'S THE PRESIDENT OF CLASS 2-2!
SHE'S SO CUTE! WHO KNEW SOMEONE LIKE HER WAS AT OUR SCHOOL
HEY LET'S GO WATCH THEM! IT'LL BE FUN!
The Cherry Project
GO
OKAY, HERE WE GO
GRAB
ACK!
LOOK OVER HERE! LET ME TAKE YOUR PICTURE!
THEY'RE HERE!
HEY! IF US KNIGHTS CAN'T GUIDE OUR PRINCESS TO SAFETY, WHAT GOOD ARE WE? CAPTAIN TSUZKI WILL GET ANGRY AT US.
I DON'T THINK I CAN DEAL WITH ALL THESE PEOPLE IN THE WAY

flash
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I'M SAYING A CHARM TO STAY CALM SO I'M WRITING THE WORD FOR "PERSON" ON MY HAND THREE TIMES AND TAKING A DEEP BREATH EACH TIME.
WHAT THE HECK. I'LL TELL YOU ONE THAT I'VE SEEN MORE OFTEN
CHANT THE WORDS "KOUICHI IS SUPER HANDSOME" THREE TIMES
DO WHAT?!
PON
JUST DO WHAT YOU ALWAYS DO
ba-dum

clap clap
AND NOW, THE MOMENT YOU HAVE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR! THE IDOL OF CLASS 2-2, THE SKATING SHOW PRESENTED BY CLASS PRESIDENT, ASUKA CHIERI!
♡
ENJOY!
WOOOO!
FLASH FLASH
OH COME ON HEART, STOP POUNDING
badum badum
GRIP
WHAT I ALWAYS DO
badum badum
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M GOING TO SKATE IN FRONT OF SO MANY PEOPLE
HUH
THE PRINCESS?! WHAT'S SHE DOING HERE?!
DID SHE COME TO SEE TSUZUKI?!
woo hoo!

blush
I'VE GOTTA JUMP
SCRATCH
badum
badum
JUST LIKE THE PRINCESS!
twish
NO! DON'T DO IT!
GASP
YOU ALWAYS TWIST YOUR BODY TOO MUCH AND DO AN EXTRA SPIN
SO HIGH

SWOOSH
TSUIZUKI?!
WOAH
I DID IT?!
A TRIPLE AXEL?!
THEY DID IT TOGETHER!
SO NOW THIS IS A PAIR SKATING EVENT?
LOOKS LIKE IT - THEY'RE SKATING TOGETHER!

HIROSHI !!
THE MUSIC IS BACK AT THE BEGINNING!
badum
badum
GRIP
SO WHAT NOW TSUZUKI? NOW THAT YOU'RE ON THE RINK WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
Woo!
CHEER!
TSUZUKI!
GO FOR IT!
SINCE I'M GOING TO FOLLOW ALONG, DON'T CRY OUT IF I TOUCH YOU
JUST SKATE THROUGH THIS ROUTINE LIKE WE PRACTICED
fwish

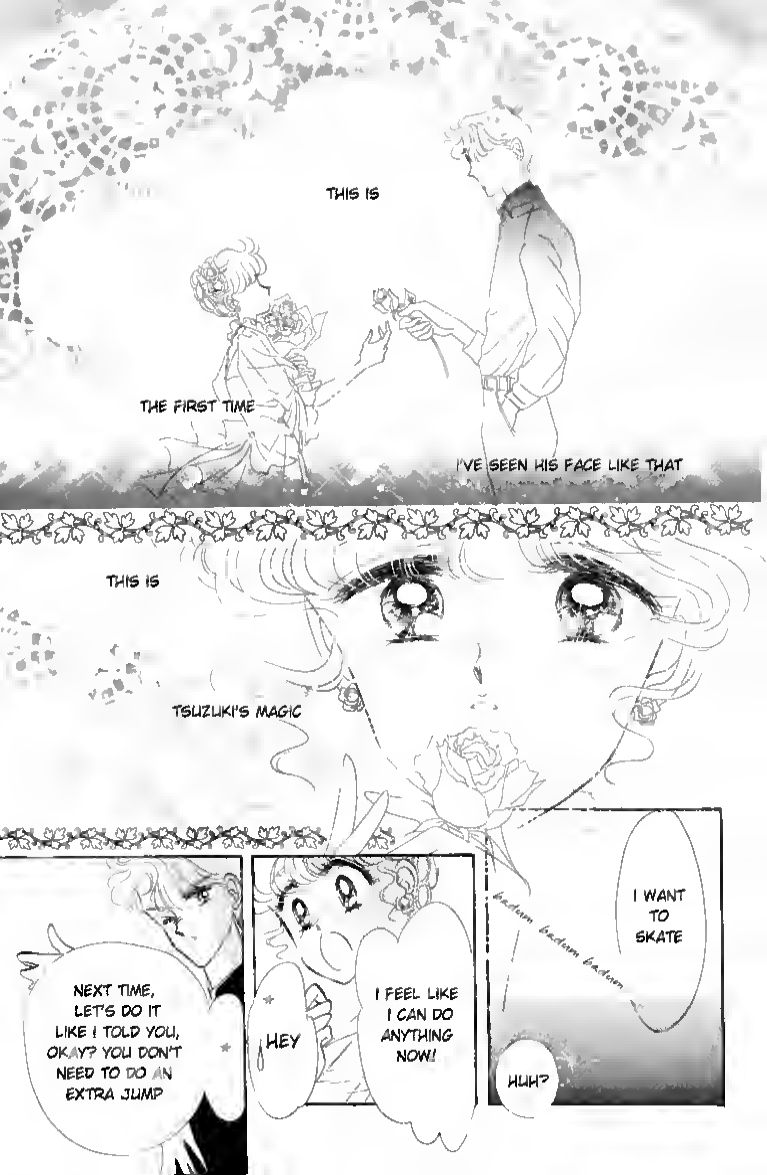
LET'S GO!
IS THIS A DREAM?
AM I REALLY PAIR SKATING WITH TSUZUKI?!
I'M TSUZUKI'S PARTNER?!
HOLD ON TO MY SHOULDER AND DO A SPIRAL POSE ABOVE ME
WITH THE NEXT SEGMENT OF MUSIC, LIFT UP YOUR BODY.
HUH
WHAT?

OKAY, NOW HERE'S THE FINISHING MOVE! A THROW JUMP! SPIN AS FAST AS YOU CAN!
WHAT?!
SPIN!
WOOOOO!
THROW JUMP = THE FEMALE IS ASSISTED IN A SPIN WHEN THE MALE PARTNER TOSSES HER MIDAIR

BONK
IS SHE GONNA CRASH?!
THUD
WOOOO
WAY TO GO TSUZUKI!
BANG
woo
whistle
woo hoo
ahaha
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
THAT HURT
PANT
TEE HEE HEE
PANT
YOU SPUN TOO MUCH IDIOT
PANT

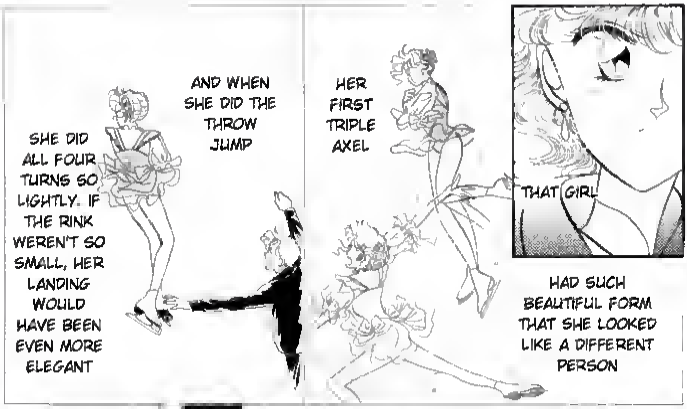
WOOOOOO
clap clap clap
DID THAT MOMENT OF MAGIC REALLY HAPPEN?
THIS FEELS GREAT
clap clap clap
WOOO
WOOO
CHEER!
HEY!
I'M NOT HEAVY!
YOU KNOW YOU'RE SURPSINGLY HEAVY. STOP EATING SO MANY OF THOSE
WOW! CHOCOLATE BANANAS! THANK YOU!

Pant
Pant
Swish
JEAZ, YOU GUYS ARE RIDICULOUS
WAAAA
THAT WAS AMAZING, AND YOU GUYS WERE GREAT TODAY!
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE GOTTEN APPLAUSE LIKE THAT
SINCE I'VE HAD THIS FEELING
Pant
AND IT'S ALL THANKS... TO YOU


THIS IS
THE FIRST TIME
I'VE SEEN HIS FACE LIKE THAT
THIS IS
TSUZUKI'S MAGIC
I WANT TO SKATE
badum badum badum
HUH?
I FEEL LIKE I CAN DO ANYTHING NOW!
HEY
NEXT TIME, LET'S DO IT LIKE I TOLD YOU, OKAY? YOU DON'T NEED TO DO AN EXTRA JUMP

I WANT TO SKATE
DON'T DO MORE THAN WHAT IS NECESSARY
tee hee
I UNDERSTAND. I'LL DO IT
MORE AND MORE UNTIL HE LIKES ME.
UNTIL I CAN SKATE LIKE TSUZUKI
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?
I DON'T WANT ALL OF THIS TO END WITH THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL!

TSUZUKI! ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO QUIT SKATING FOR A LONG TIME?
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
THERE ARE
OTHER THINGS I WANT TO PURSUE
WHY IS THAT GIRL PAIR SKATING WITH TSUZUKI?!
IT'S BEEN OVER A YEAR SINCE WE HAD THAT CONVERSATION. I KNEW HE WANTED TO PAIR SKATE A LONG TIME AGO.
SO HE WAS JUST SEARCHING FOR A PARTNER...
AND THAT'S THE GIRL HE WAS SEARCHING FOR THIS WHOLE TIME!


SHE DID ALL FOUR TURNS SO LIGHTLY. IF THE RINK WEREN'T SO SMALL, HER LANDING WOULD HAVE BEEN EVEN MORE ELEGANT
AND WHEN SHE DID THE THROW JUMP
HER FIRST TRIPLE AXEL
THAT GIRL
HAD SUCH BEAUTIFUL FORM THAT SHE LOOKED LIKE A DIFFERENT PERSON

DOES TSUZUKI PAIR SKATE WITH THAT GIRL NOW?!
AS USUAL, YOU'RE AT THE RINK FROM DAWN TIL DUSK.
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AT ALL LATELY THOUGH
HEY, YOU CAME!
THAT GIRL WITH SUCH PERFECT REFLEXES, WHOSE FORM SEEMED SO SLOPPY..I ACTUALLY THOUGHT SHE WAS JUST DOING FIGURE SKATING FOR FUN

WHAT CLUB IS SHE A MEMBER OF?
HOW'S IT FEEL TO BE ONE OF US COMMONERS AGAIN? SHE'S THE PRINCESS NOW
YOU KEPT COMPLAINING THAT YOU NEEDED A SERIOUS RIVAL AND THAT NO ONE OUT THERE WAS GOOD ENOUGH TO COMPETE AGAINST YOU
HEH HEH.
SHE'S ONLY JUST NOW STARTED SKATING IN MIDDLE SCHOOL SHE HAS ALMOST NO EXPERIENCE, SHE'S NOT PART OF ANY CLUB. WE FOUND HER. ♡
SHE'S EVEN PRACTICING IN TSUZUKI'S PRIVATE HOME RINK
I HAVEN'T EVEN BEEN IN THERE...
GRIP
EVEN I COULDN'T BE THE PAIR PARTNER TSUZUKI WANTED
NO WAY. THERE'S NO WAY THAT GIRL CAN BE THAT SPECIAL CAN THERE?
NORMALLY IT TAKES SOMEONE FIVE OR SIX YEARS JUST TO LEARN HOW TO DO A DOUBLE TURN

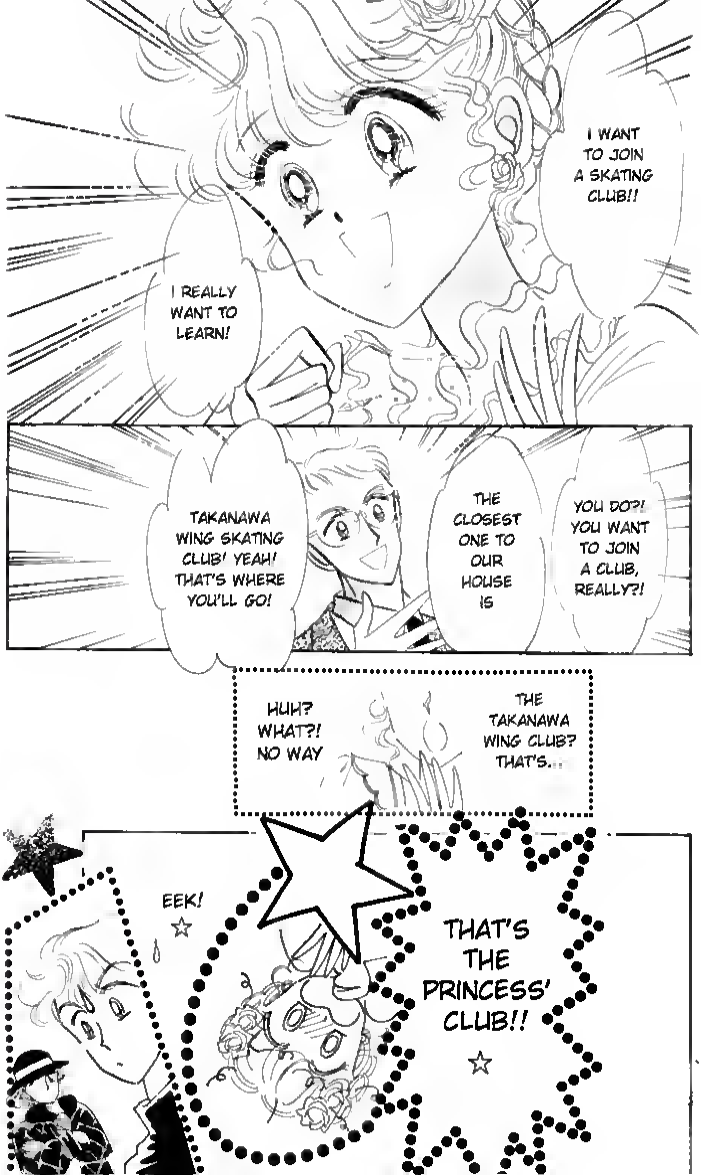
THE PRINCESS SAID THAT AFTER THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL, SHE'S GOING TO CHALLENGE YOU!
YOU KNOW
THE SECOND HALF IS STARTING
Woo
clap clap clap
YOU SHOULD CALM DOWN
LOSING YOUR COMPOSURE DOESN'T SUIT YOU
HER SKATING IS SOMEHOW SO CHARMING
THEY'RE GOOD CONNECTING ELEMENTS. DOES SHE PLAN TO SKATE TO THIS?
INTERESTING MUSIC. THE TEMPO CHANGES THROUGHOUT THE SAME SONG

IT'S JUST LIKE
TSUZUKI'S SKATING
THE WIDTH AND MANNER OF HER STEPS
HER DYNAMIC IS LIKE THAT OF A BOY'S
SHE'S MASTERED TSUZUKI'S STYLE OF SKATING
IT'S TOO MUCH LIKE IT!
WITH HER, IT COULD BE A QUADRUPLE
ACTUALLY
CHIERI WILL MASTER JUMPS SOON
SHE'LL BE ABLE TO DO A TRIPLE IN AN INSTANT

CHALLENGING ME?
Don't think little of me
I DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE'S THINKING ABOUT BUT
NO WAY
HOW MANY BOYS IN THE WORLD CAN PULL OFF A QUADRUPLE?
WITH HER FAULTS, THERE'S NO WAY THAT GIRL CAN BE USEFUL IN THE LONG RUN
SHE'LL GIVE HERSELF AWAY, CRASHING INTO THAT WALL
EVEN IF HE DOESN'T NOTICE HER FAULTS

I'VE SEEN MANY GIRLS JUST LIKE HER
BUT THIS ONE
THEY CLEAR ALL THE STAGES LEADING UP TO THIS ONE
THEY CAN NEVER PASS
Wooo
clap clap clap
whistle
CHEER!
.....
I HAVE TO TELL HIM! I WANT TO PURUSUE FIGURE SKATING MORE SERIOUSLY! HE'LL BE THRILLED WHEN I TELL HIM!
HUH? WHERE'S TSUZUKI?
pant
I THOUGHT I SAW SOMEONE TALKING WITH KOUICHI.
SO YOU CAME AFTER ALL

!
THE PRINCESS!
WOW, IT'S THE JUNIOR CHAMPION HIMSELF, MR. TSUZUKI
THANKS FOR HELPING CHIERI OUT
NICE TO MEET YOU. I'VE SEEN YOU BEFORE ON VIDEO, WHEN YOU PERFORMED IN THE OLYMPICS. I'M NOT THE CHAMPION ANYMORE ACTUALLY.
AH HA THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO
I'M SURE YOUR FAMILY TOOK VIDEOS OF YOU TOO DURING YOUR ROUTINE TODAY
CAMCORDER
CHIERI, THAT WAS AMAZING! I RECORDED EVERYTHING. WE'LL ALL WATCH IT AGAIN LATER, TOGETHER!
WHAT?!
OKAY!
WELL
MY FATHER HATES SKATING
WELL, I, UM
HEY SO


I WANT TO JOIN A SKATING CLUB!!
I REALLY WANT TO LEARN!
YOU DO?! YOU WANT TO JOIN A CLUB, REALLY?!
THE CLOSEST ONE TO OUR HOUSE IS
TAKANAWA WING SKATING CLUB! YEAH! THAT'S WHERE YOU'LL GO!
THE TAKANAWA WING CLUB? THAT'S...
HUH? WHAT?! NO WAY
EEK!
THAT'S THE PRINCESS' CLUB!!

IT'S UNFORTUNATE, BUT NOW, BEFORE THE CHAMPIONSHIP, THERE ARE NO OPENINGS IN THE RINK SCHEDULE, OR FOR COACHES
BEGINNERS CAN'T PRACTICE DURING OUR HOURS, BUT IF YOU'RE FINE WITH THAT...
GO AHEAD
AND TRY TO ENTER IF YOU WANT
THERE'S A TOURNAMENT
THAT'S RIGHT. THE BLOCK CLASS CHAMPIONSHIP IS SOON
CHAMPIONSHIP?
GASP!
MY HEART IS POUNDING
IF TSUZUKI CREATES A PROGRAM FOR ME, AND I PRACTICE HARD, WELL..., MAYBE I CAN'T REALLY PERFORM THERE
BUT I WANT TO
badum badum badum
badum badum
A CHAMPION SHIP
THE PRINCESS WILL BE IN IT

I WANT TO ENTER THE CHAMPIONSHIP TOO!
AND THEN I'LL BE ABLE TO CHALLENGE THE PRINCESS TOO!
THAT'S ABSURD
EVEN IF SHE JOINS THE CLUB NOW, WHAT WILL SHE DO? SHE HAS A LONG WAY TO GO BEFORE SHE CAN BE A REAL FIGURE SKATER
smirk
TOO BAD
YOU CAN'T
WHAT?! WHY NOT?! WHY CAN'T I ENTER?!
IF SHE FEELS BAD BECAUSE SHE'S NOT AT MY LEVEL YET, I DON'T CARE. I HOPE IT BREAKS HER

The Proper Way to View a Figure Skating Match ♡''

★ First you need consecutive victories → KODANSHA and it's better if you're already an insider

★ If you have something over your shoulders, that's good. (You have to have the right equipment though) You should be set with good earrings a Russian fur coat and other expensive accessories

★ rink side is super cold! It's important to wear a fur coat if possible maybe with a mini skirt

★ The bigger your bag the better. You're going to need to hold a camera and some other goodies I like to bring figure skating books with it. During half-time, be sure to set your camera on zoom to grab some nice action shots!

★ One thing you must not forget is a box of tissues. How many should you bring? Well that depends (if you're watching Midori Ito skate, then you should bring at least a whole box!) Watch out it's pretty cold next to the rink too

★ Enjoy the performance! If you can get into a VIP box or meet up with true fans, that's the best. But you don't have to be a VIP to enjoy the sport. So long as you ♡ Focus you'll love it ♡
Well That's all my tips for now!

♡ Anyway I have a fur coat just like the one in the picture. I never thought I would really wear it. But I saw a picture of it while traveling in France and knew I had to have it. I can't apologize for this purchase either. I've used it more than I thought I would. You feel huge when you walk around with it on though. Kiss until next time! ♡

THERE ARE SIX GRADES OF BADGE RANKS
IT TAKES MANY YEARS TO GET ALL SIX BADGES AND BECOME ELIGIBLE TO GO THROUGH THE CHAMPIONSHIP
I SEE.
SO I CAN'T ENTER
MANY YEARS
GM
IF YOU WANT TO ENTER, JUST ENTER THE COMPETITION AS TSUZUKI'S PARTNER!
IT'S OKAY

AS TSUZUKI'S PARTNER
FOR PAIR COMPETITION, YOU DON'T NEED ANY BADGES
DON'T ENTER A CLUB TO PRACTICE PRACTICE WITH US INSTEAD!
NO WAY
AS A PAIR WITH TSUZUKI?!
REALLY? I COULD BE TSUZUKI'S PARTNER?!

ARE YOU SERIOUS!? TSUZUKI IS A GENIUS HE'S A SPECIAL PERSON!
THIS GIRL IS GOING TO DO NOTHING EXCEPT DRAG HIM DOWN WITH HER
WHAT...
I WANT TO DO IT!!
I DON'T APPROVE
OF THIS DEFECTIVE GIRL BECOMING TSUZUKI'S PARTNER
twish
DEFECTIVE
COMPARED TO TSUZUKI AND THE PRINCESS, I AM FLAWED

BUT ME...
PAIRED WITH TSUZUKI
IF I BECOME BETTER
badum...
WOULD YOU APPROVE IT?
badum
HMPH
WELL
IN THIS MATCH YOU'RE SO EAGER FOR
IF YOU CAN WIN AGAINST ME, THEN I'LL GIVE YOU MY APPROVAL TO PARTICIPATE
A MATCH WITH THE PRINCESS!!

I'LL DO IT!
I DON'T CARE HOW MANY YEARS IT WILL TAKE! I'LL BECOME BETTER AT SKATING ON MY OWN, AND I'LL GET YOUR APPROVAL!
YOUR CAREER IS DIFFERENT THAN THE PRINCESS'S. IF YOU DO THIS, YOU'LL BE FORCED TO COMPETE AS A SINGLE SKATER!
PAT
!
DON'T
MAKE A DECISION JUST YET. DON'T YOU WANT TO THINK IT OVER FOR A WHILE?

MEET ME AT MY OFFICE TOMORROW? THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO TALK ABOUT
WILL YOU
congrats!
cheers cheers
ahahaha
GM
WHAT A JOKE. SINGLE SKATING...
CHIERI? ARE YOU OKAY? DID YOU DRINK TO MUCH JUICE?
dhohoho
SHE'S JUST TIRED. YOU SHOULD TAKE HER HOME
SHALL I COME WITH YOU?
YOU'LL BE FORCED TO DECIDE!
THIS MIGHT BE A BAD IDEA.
I THINK I'M JUST GETTING CARRIED AWAY ON THE SUCCESS I FELT AT THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL.
I...
I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD CHALLENGE THE PRINCESS

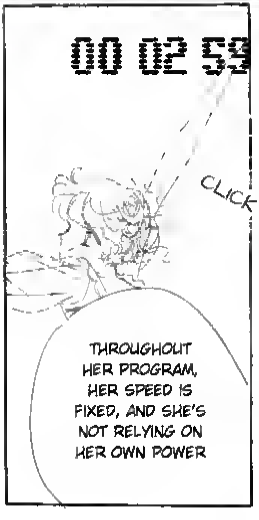
WAHH!
MS HARD, NO, DON'T COME INTO MY ROOM!!
WHAT SHOULD I DO. .
YOUR TEACHER STOPPED BY. WANT SOME TEA? ♡
(WOAH!)
GASP!
MISS PRESIDENT WAS A FAN OF TSUZUKI ALL ALONG
BUT STILL
STAYING AFTER THE FESTIVAL, AND PAIR SKATING WITH YOU. .
IT'S ALMOST LIKE HE CAME TO THIS SCHOOL JUST TO SKATE WITH YOU, CHIER! ☆

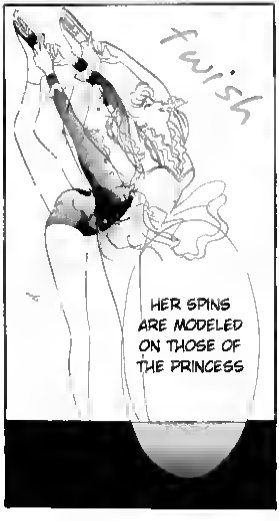
YOU MAY NOT HAVE THE SAME KIND OF CAREER AS HER, BUT IF YOU ENTER A SKATING CLUB, AND WORK HARD, YOU'LL BE FINE
BUT I DON'T HAVE A SKATING CAREER HIROSHI TOLD ME THAT A MATCH AGAINST THE PRINCESS WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE
I THINK YOUR PAIR SKATING ROUTINE WITH TSUZUKI AT THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL WAS INCREDIBLE

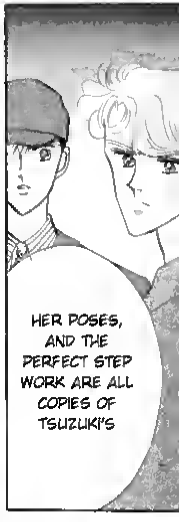
IF ONLY FOR A MOMENT
NOW IT LOOKS LIKE I'LL BE JOINING A SKATE CLUB
I WAS TSUZUKI'S PARTNER
SKATING WITH TSUZUKI
WAS LIKE A DREAM
I WANT TO DO MY BEST AND GET BETTER AND BETTER
AND I WANT TO GET THE PRINCESS'S APPROVAL TO BE TSUZUKI'S PARTNER...

TSUZUKI GROUP RESEARCH INSTITUTE (STOCK)
TSUZUKI CONSTRUCTION (STOCK)
TSUZUKI CHEMICAL
TSUZUKI SPACE DEVELOPMENT
TSUZUKI ELECTRI
TSUZUKI FOODS
FROM SPACE DEVELOP-MENT TO FOOD
IT AMAZES ME THE TSUZUKI GROUP HAS EVERYTHING
WHENEVER I LOOK AT THIS BUILDING
TSUZUKI GROUP
TSUZUKI.
swing
SOMEDAY IT WILL BE YOURS
12
...ping
Computer Room

WHEN THE IMAGES ARE COMPARED, THE HEIGHT OF THE JUMPS, THE TIMING OF THE LANDINGS, EVERYTHING IS EXACTLY THE SAME
IT'S JUST AS TSUZUKI SAID
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK


00 02 59
CLICK
THROUGHOUT HER PROGRAM, HER SPEED IS FIXED, AND SHE'S NOT RELYING ON HER OWN POWER


twish
HER SPINS ARE MODELED ON THOSE OF THE PRINCESS


HER POSES, AND THE PERFECT STEP WORK ARE ALL COPIES OF TSUZUKI'S

SHE'S BECOMING LIKE A MACHINE, JUST MAKING REPLICAS OF THE SKATING SHE SEES AROUND HER
I KNEW IT
WHAT?
CHIERI'S SKATING HAS NO EMOTION BEHIND IT
SHE'S ONLY SKATING ACCORDING TO THE TECHNIQUES SHE'S BEEN DRILLED ON
click
type

IT'S NO WONDER. SHE'S ONLY RECENTLY BEGUN FIGURE SKATING
SHE'S ADMIRED THE SKATING OF TSUZUKI AND THE PRINCESS, AND SO SHE'S USING THEM AS HER MODELS. SHE HAS THE ABILITY TO PERFECTLY COPY
BUT IN THE PROCESS SHE'S LOST
HER SENSE OF SELF-EXPRESSION
I WANT TO SKATE LIKE TSUZUKI
LIKE THE PRINCESS...
DAMN
HAS SHE BEEN MISTAKEN ALL ALONG ON HOW TO DO THIS?

IF THINGS CONTINUE THIS WAY

WILL CHIERI FAIL?

SHE'S STARTING NOT TO EXPRESS HERSELF

IF SHE DOESN'T REALIZE THAT

SHE MAY NEVER BE ABLE TO SKATE AGAIN

A FIGURE SKATING PROGRAM IS LIKE A DRAMA

EVERY TASK REQUIRES NOT ONLY THE POWER TO PERFORM THE TECHNIQUE, BUT ALSO A DEEP SENSE OF EXPRESSION

ARE THE ONES WHO CAN EXPRESS THEIR FEELINGS AND INDIVIDUALITY ON STAGE
THAT'S WHAT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE
THE ONES WHO SUCCEED
IF ALL YOU FOCUS ON ARE JUMPS, THEN YOU DON'T STAND APART FROM ANYONE ELSE
SO SHE'LL SPEND HER LIFE AS A COPY?
ISN'T THERE ANOTHER WAY?!
YOU'VE GOT TO TEACH HER, TSUZUKI! YOUR EXPRESSION! EVEN HER COPYING THAT IS MORE THAN ENOUGH! AT LEAST YOU'LL HAVE A PAIR PARTNER!
HER MEETING THE PRINCESS WAS ONLY SUPPOSED TO SPARK A DESIRE IN HER. BUT I THINK THAT'S GONE TOO FAR ALREADY
LET HER DO A MATCH AGAINST THE PRINCESS. THERE'S NO WAY SHE CAN BEAT A CHAMPION WHO HAS HONED HER TECHNIQUE AND MASTERED HER SENSE OF EXPRESSION FOR YEARS
WE NEED TIME

WHATEVER THE OUTCOME, IT CAN ONLY BE BAD AT THIS POINT
THIS IS MY RESPON SIBILITY
WE WENT TOO FAST, AND BLEW IT
WE SHOULD BREAK IT OFF NOW

WAIT! HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT WE HAVEN'T FINISHED DIGGING UP INFORMATION!
IT'S TOO SOON TO MAKE SUCH A RASH DECISION!
CHIERI IS THE PERSON WHO IS MAKING THE IMPOSSIBLE POSSIBLE SO FAR!
LET'S DO THIS
IF CHIERI STILL WANTS TO WORK WITH US
AND CHOSES TO CONTINUE WITH PAIR SKATING WE'LL THINK ABOUT IT THEN
IF SHE WANTS TO DETOUR AND TRY TO ENTER THE CLUB BY TAKING ON THE PRINCESS, WE CAN FIND SOMEONE ELSE IN THE MEANTIME

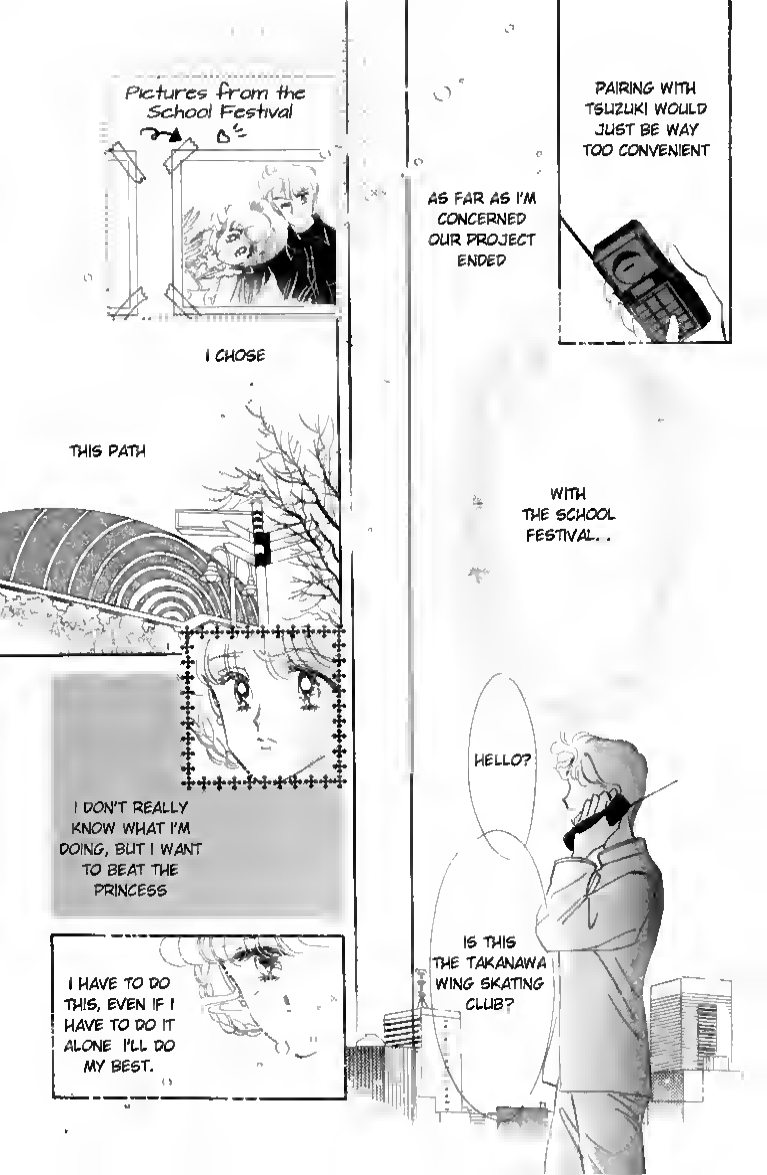
FIND ANOTHER GIRL!
WE DON'T HAVE THE TIME FOR THAT
THERE'S ONLY ONE YEAR LEFT BEFORE HIGH SCHOOL, AND AFTER THAT YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO SKATE ANYMORE
TSUZUKI HAS TO INHERIT THE TSUZUKI GROUP SOMEDAY. BEFORE THEN, WE HAVE TO OBTAIN OUR DREAMS
THERE'S NOTHING ELSE EXCEPT SKATING NOW! WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR ANYTHING ELSE!
THIS IS THE ONLY TIME TSUZUKI HAS TO FOLLOW HIS DREAM!
WE HAVE TO CLIMB TO THE TOP OF THE PAIR SKATING CIRCUITS.

WHEN WE'VE REACHED THE TOP AT PAIR SKATING, THEN IT'S GAME OVER. YOUR PARTNER WON'T EVEN BE NEEDED ANYMORE.
WE'RE JUST PRESSED FOR TIME AND RUSHING TO GET TO OUR GOAL
GRAB
!!
WAIT!
HIROSHI!
dash
dash
HAD A CHANGE OF HEART?
I'M WASHING MY HANDS OF THIS WHOLE SITUATION
YOU SAID YOU COULDN'T CHOSE A WINNER.
WELL, I'M WASTING MY YOUTH FOR YOUR CAUSE TOO YOU KNOW
WELL
I GUESS WHATEVER HAPPENS WITH CHIERI IS FINE BY ME

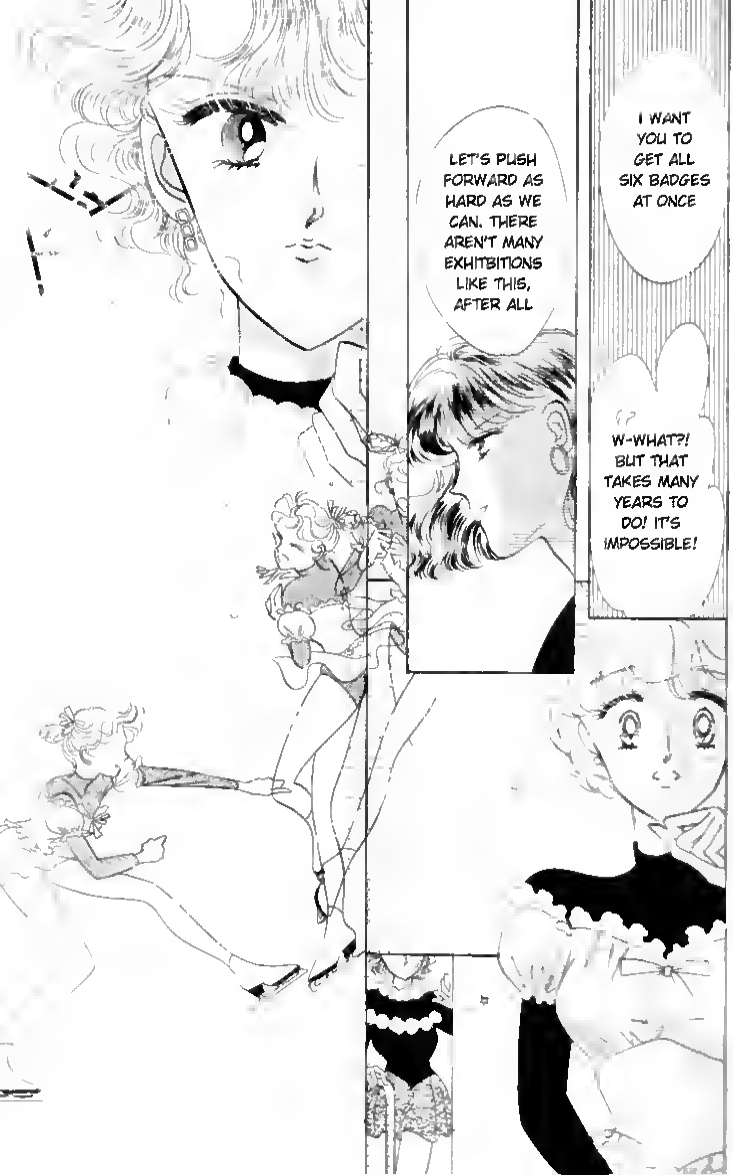
I know I believe that that pearl earrings can boost confidence!
AN OFF SEASON HURRICANE BLOWS IN UNEXPECTEDLY.
WHETHER THROUGH YOUR TROUBLES WITH WHITE STONES OF PEARL AND WHITE AGATE
SHE MAKES THE IMPOSSIBLE POSSIBLE..
CARRY OUT YOUR CONVIC TIONS
GRIP
HMM

ARE YOU GOING TO JOIN THAT SKATE CLUB?
MORNIN'
OH
chirp chirp
I'M GOING TO JOIN!
YEAH
IT MAY TAKE A LOT OF TIME, AND IT MAY END UP BEING TOO MUCH FOR ME TO HANDLE... BUT I WANT TO BEAT THE PRINCESS AND GET HER APPROVAL!

HUH...
Her fate is sealed up.
IF YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO TAKE ON THE PRINCESS, GIVE IT YOUR ALL
DON'T WORRY ABOUT PAIR SKATING THEN
IT FEELS LIKE TSUZUKI AND THE OTHERS HAVE BECOME DISTANT
SOMEHOW
Y-YEAH...
I UNDERSTAND.
THEY DON'T KNOW HOW MANY YEARS IT WOULD TAKE ME TO CATCH UP.
I COULD BE A WEIGHT DRAGGING TSUZUKI DOWN.
badum
badum


Pictures from the School Festival
I CHOSE
THIS PATH
I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT I'M DOING, BUT I WANT TO BEAT THE PRINCESS
I HAVE TO DO THIS, EVEN IF I HAVE TO DO IT ALONE I'LL DO MY BEST.
AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED OUR PROJECT ENDED
PAIRING WITH TSUZUKI WOULD JUST BE WAY TOO CONVENIENT
WITH THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL. .
HELLO?
IS THIS THE TAKANAWA WING SKATING CLUB?

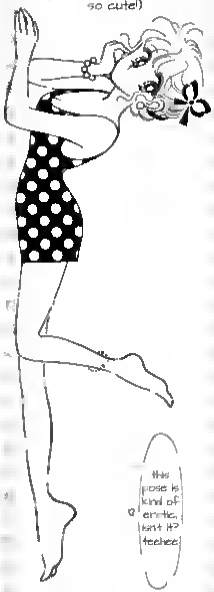
I'VE JUST GOT TO GET BETTER AND BETTER
HELLO, NICE TO MEET YOU. MY NAME IS MORI. I'LL BE YOUR COACH
HUH, THAT GIRL?!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! MORI'S GOING TO BE HER COACH!? I ONCE ASKED HER TO COACH ME BUT SHE REFUSED TO TEACH ME ANYTHING!
YOUR FATHER WAS THE OLYMPIC ATHLETE MR ASUKA, CORRECT? I ENVY YOU
WILL YOUR FATHER BE ATTENDING THE TOURNAMENT AS WELL?
YOU DON'T HAVE A GRADE RANKING YET EITHER, RIGHT? YOU SHOULD TAKE A BADGING TEST IMMEDIATELY!

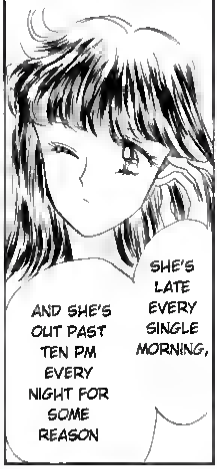

I WANT YOU TO GET ALL SIX BADGES AT ONCE
W-WHAT?! BUT THAT TAKES MANY YEARS TO DO! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
LET'S PUSH FORWARD AS HARD AS WE CAN. THERE AREN'T MANY EXHIBITIONS LIKE THIS, AFTER ALL

SHE'S ASLEEP AGAIN!
RIIIIIIING
Jiggle
Ahahaha
DING DONG
dash
HEY CHIERI, YOU DIDN'T FINISH CLEANING!
THUMP
SORRY, I'LL DO IT LATER!
THUMP
JEAZ
WHAT'S WITH CHIERI LATELY?!
2-2

チリ〜のつぶやき

This little border is cute right? I made these for the nakayoshi publications (everyone was jealous!) I did this drawing of chieri too, originally I wanted it to be an illustration for a metal pencil box, as a present (I love those, so cute!)





KOUICHI?!
W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
I WAS IN THE NEIGHBOR HOOD
CHIER!
YOU'RE COVERED IN CUTS. WHAT HAPPENED?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE. LET'S CATCH UP
I'M BEING PUSHED TO TAKE MY FIRST BADGE TEST
OH WELL, I KEEP FALLING DOWN. IT'S NORMAL FOR BEING IN INTENSIVE TRAINING SESSIONS.

Hey! I just finished moving!

Now I'm living near Shiba Park in Tokyo, it's really nice and I love it here. I can see the Tokyo Tower from my ♡ window. It's an incredible view. I've been living in Tokyo for four almost five years since I came here for college (but I still love it like it's brand new).

I do live in an area with a lot of office buildings around, though. (I would rather die than work in a building. I prefer to see green. I prefer to see the sunset. And I love it when it rains. But I love being around cars too. blech)

I'm lucky I draw manga (and I love getting fan letters. thank you to all of my readers. all two or three of you out there. sweatdrop)

Whenever I go out for my evening walk, I think about Chieri.

Please be sure to pick up a copy of volume 2! I think you'll be pleased with what happened with Chieri and the others ♡

Thank you so much for reading!

HE WAS REALLY SERIOUS
HIROSHI SAID SO, BUT...
ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT TSUZUKI?
!
ABOUT PAIR SKATING
AND MAYBE I AM STUPID FOR BELIEVING THAT I CAN DO IT BUT
HIROSHI TOLD ME THAT I MIGHT BE DOING SOMETHING STUPID
badum badum badum
REALLY..
badum

WE'LL FIND ANOTHER GIRL
BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO THINK LIKE THAT!
BUT I REALLY DO WANT TO BE ABLE TO SKATE LIKE TSUZUKI AND THE PRINCESS!
I CAN'T DO THIS. I CAN'T ABANDON HER
WHAT?!
TO FIND HER
BEFORE TSUZUKI
I WAS THE FIRST ONE

OH
sigh
WHAT?
KOUICHI?!
I KNEW IT WAS COLD BUT
WOW
IT'S SNOWING!

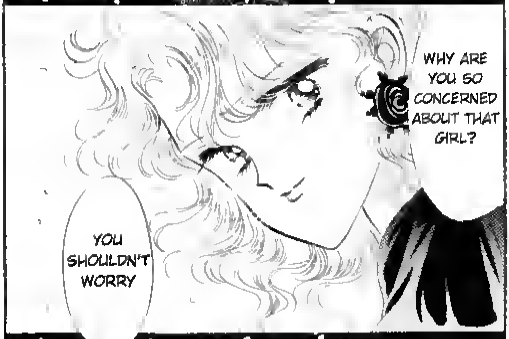
CHIERI
KOUICHI
THAT'S ALL
I WANTED TO SAY
GOOD LUCK
OKAY.
I CAN GET HOME BY MYSELF, I'LL BE FINE
YEAH
THANKS!
GOOD NIGHT

badum badum
KOUICHI, JUST OUT OF THE BLUE HUGGING ME.. WHAT WAS HE THINKING ABOUT?
HE SURPRISED ME
I'M GLAD TSUZUKI CAME
AND WE USED TO BE SO CLOSE
BUT SINCE I SAID I WAS GOING TO JOIN THE SKATING CLUB
LATELY, TSUZUKI AND THE OTHERS ARE REALLY DISTANT AROUND ME
EVEN THOUGH WE'RE IN THE SAME CLASS, WE'VE HARDLY TALKED AT ALL

I WONDER WHERE YOU ARE RIGHT NOW, TSUZUKI, AND WHAT YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT...
PLEASE...
TELL ME...
I WANT TO SEE HIM

!

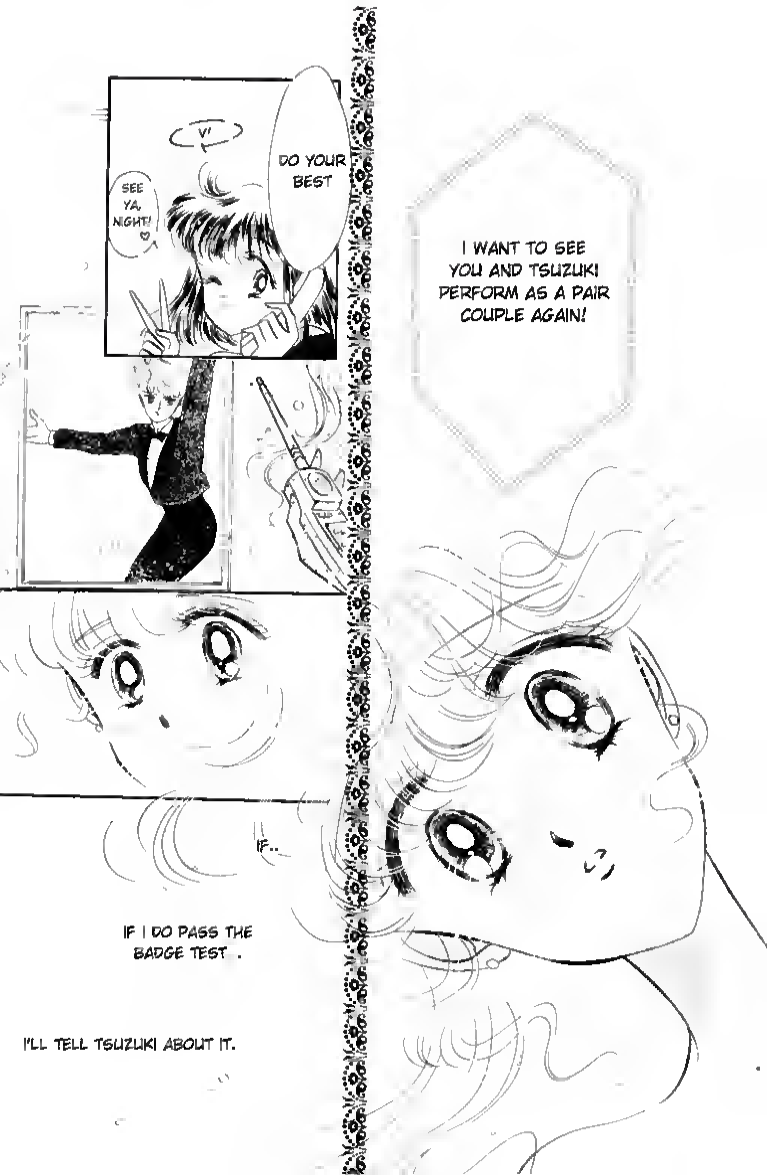
TELL ME...


WHY ARE YOU SO CONCERNED ABOUT THAT GIRL?
YOU SHOULDN'T WORRY

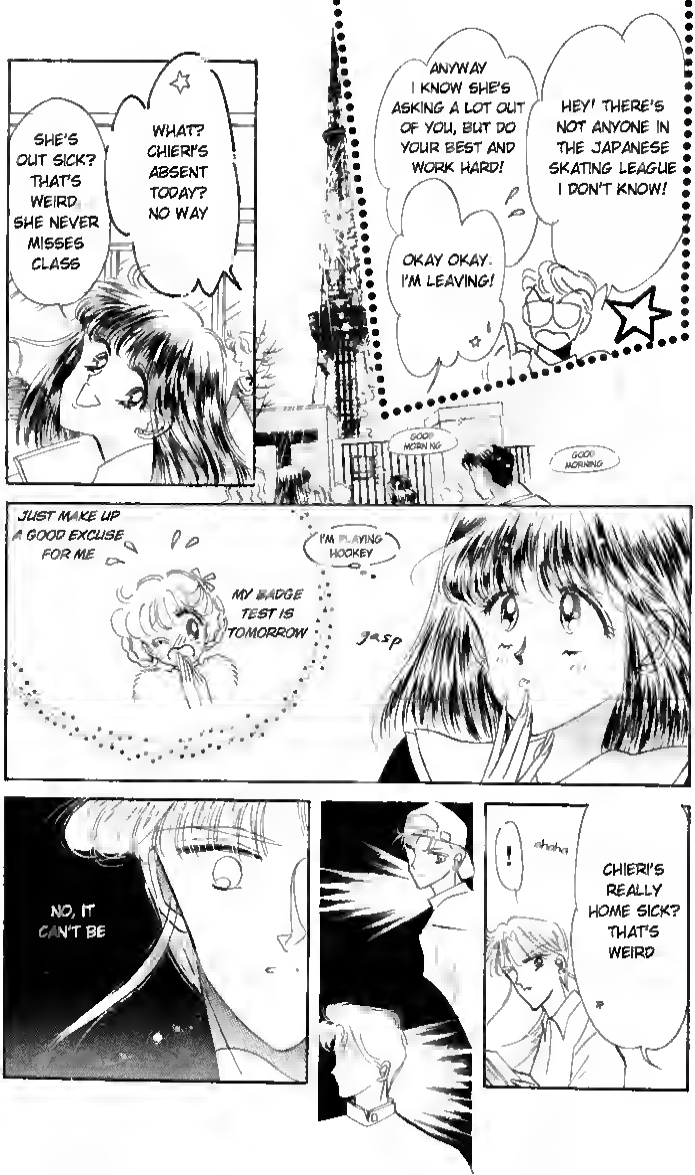
I DON'T KNOW HOW SHE MANAGED IT, BUT SHE HAS A VERY REPUTABLE COACH
SHE'S ALREADY PRACTICING TO TAKE HER FIRST BADGING TEST SO SHE CAN ENTER THE BLOCK CHAMPIONSHIP

SO THAT'S WHY YOU'VE BEEN PRACTICING DAY AND NIGHT
YOU NEVER TOLD ME ANYTHING ABOUT IT (YOU BIG MEANIE)
YOU'VE REALLY DECIDED TO TAKE THE BADGE TEST?!
SORRY, SORRY!
DID YOU TELL TSUZUKI AND THE OTHERS ABOUT IT? KOUICHI SEEMS REALLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU
SO, CHIERI
MY TAKING THE BADGING TESTS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ANY OF THEM...
YEAH, I GUESS I DID BUT IT'S OKAY

THAT WAS EVEN HIS IDEA!
BUT I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO BE PAIR SKATERS!
I KNOW, BUT IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT REALISTICALLY, THERE IS NO WAY HE COULD CHOSE ME AS HIS PARTNER, WHEN I'M STILL SO NEW AT FIGURE SKATING
HE'S NOT EVEN MY COACH ANYMORE
AND THAT'S OKAY
CHIER!, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO WEAR FOR YOUR FIRST BADGE TEST?
HUH? PROBABLY JUST MY NORMAL OUTFIT
I SEE
WELL
SINCE I'M IN CHARGE OF COSTUME DESIGN, I'LL MAKE YOU SOMETHING FOR THE TOURNAMENT YOU CAN'T GET ANYWHERE ELSE.
I KNOW YOU'LL PASS, CHIER!!
YOU'LL GET ALL THE WAY TO THE BIG COMPETITION AND DEFEAT THAT SO-CALLED PRINCESS GIRL!

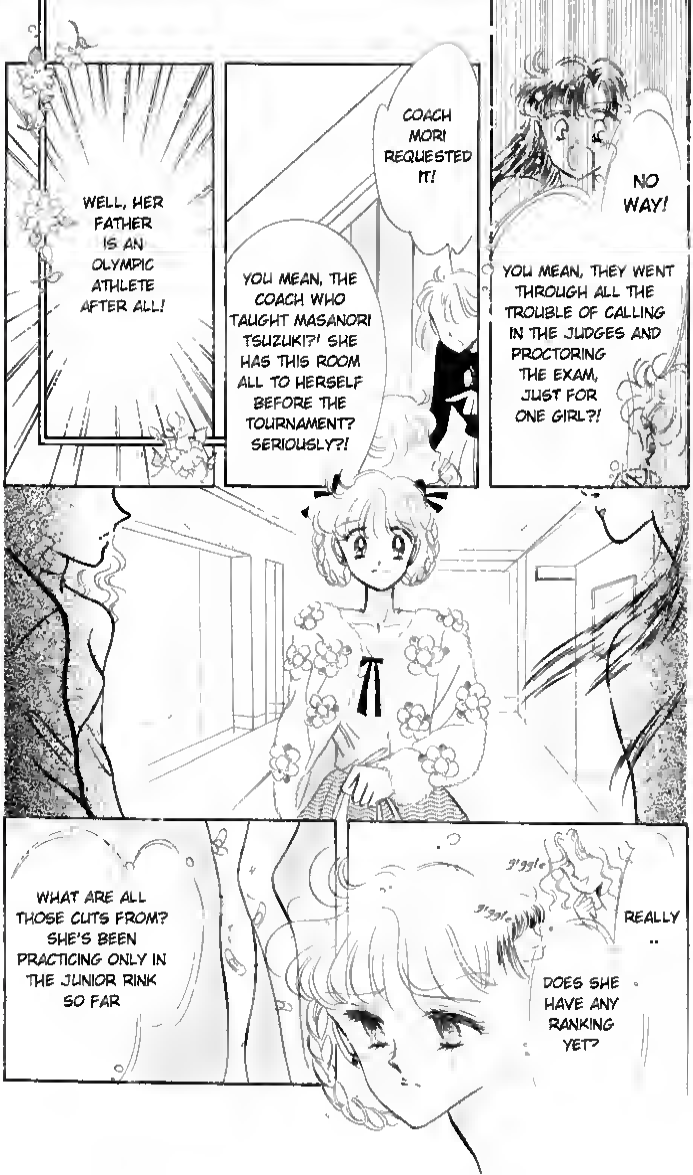

I WANT TO SEE YOU AND TSUZUKI PERFORM AS A PAIR COUPLE AGAIN!
DO YOUR BEST
SEE YA, NIGHT! ♡
IF..
IF I DO PASS THE BADGE TEST .
I'LL TELL TSUZUKI ABOUT IT.

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN NAKAYOSHI, OCTOBER 1990 – MARCH 1991


SHE'S OUT SICK? THAT'S WEIRD SHE NEVER MISSES CLASS
WHAT? CHIERI'S ABSENT TODAY? NO WAY
ANYWAY I KNOW SHE'S ASKING A LOT OUT OF YOU, BUT DO YOUR BEST AND WORK HARD!
OKAY OKAY. I'M LEAVING!
HEY! THERE'S NOT ANYONE IN THE JAPANESE SKATING LEAGUE I DON'T KNOW!
GOOD MORNING
GOOD MORNING
JUST MAKE UP A GOOD EXCUSE FOR ME
I'M PLAYING HOCKEY
MY BADGE TEST IS TOMORROW
gasp
NO, IT CAN'T BE
!
ahaha
CHIERI'S REALLY HOME SICK? THAT'S WEIRD

SHE'S AT THE BADGE TEST?!
TSUZUKI
I'VE GOT MATH HOMEWORK TODAY - PLEASE HELP ME!
ding dong
chatter
chatter
ding dong
GOOD MORN ING
HEY!
YOU RE/ALLY ARE PLAYING HOOKEY!
GOOD MORN ING
OF COURSE I AM! TODAY IS THE FIRST BLOCK TOURNAMENT WITHOUT THOSE AWFUL COMPULSORY EXERCISES. IT'S MY CHANCE TO GET INTO THE NEXT RANK, SO I'VE GOTTA GO PRACTICE!
ME TOO!

THE PRINCESS IS THE WORLD CHAMPION!
BUT I THOUGHT THE PRINCESS WAS EXCEPTIONAL WITH COMPULSORIES, RIGHT? WITHOUT THAT GIVEN, THERE COULD BE AN UPSET AT THE NEXT TOURNAMENT
NO WAY!
ALMOST EVERYONE IS SKIPPING SCHOOL TODAY TO PRACTICE
JUNIOR RINK
chatter
chatter
HUH? IS SOMETHING GOING ON IN THE JUNIORS RINK?
SHE'S THE ONLY ONE TAKING THE BADGE TEST TODAY!
chatter
JUNIOR RINK
YOU MEAN THE GIRL STUDYING UNDER COACH MORI?
DID YOU HEAR? ABOUT THE NEW GIRL WHO IS COMPETING TODAY, ASUKA CHIERI?
Badge Testing In Progress
HUH - A BADGE TEST?!
chatter


NO WAY!
YOU MEAN, THEY WENT THROUGH ALL THE TROUBLE OF CALLING IN THE JUDGES AND PROCTORING THE EXAM, JUST FOR ONE GIRL?!
COACH MORI REQUESTED IT!
YOU MEAN, THE COACH WHO TAUGHT MASANORI TSUZUKI?! SHE HAS THIS ROOM ALL TO HERSELF BEFORE THE TOURNAMENT? SERIOUSLY?!
WELL, HER FATHER IS AN OLYMPIC ATHLETE AFTER ALL!
WHAT ARE ALL THOSE CUTS FROM? SHE'S BEEN PRACTICING ONLY IN THE JUNIOR RINK SO FAR
Giggle
Giggle
REALLY ..
DOES SHE HAVE ANY RANKING YET?

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING HOW THE DAUGHTER OF MR. ASUKA PERFORMS
LET'S WATCH HER.
I WONDER HOW WELL SHE'LL SCORE
I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE'S GETTING ALL THIS SPECIAL TREATMENT.
LIKE SHE'S SOME KIND OF PRINCESS
badum badum
tie
I'M WEARING MY CHARM PENDANT
AND TODAY I HAVE ON MY VICTORY CHARMS, MY RUBY EARRINGS. I'LL BE OKAY

The Badge Test
From beginner to level 8.
As one's level increases, the difficulty of the steps one must perform also increases.

To perform in singles at a major competition such as a tournament, juniors (ages 12-18) must have passed at least level 6. Seniors (ages 14 and above) must have passed at least level 7.

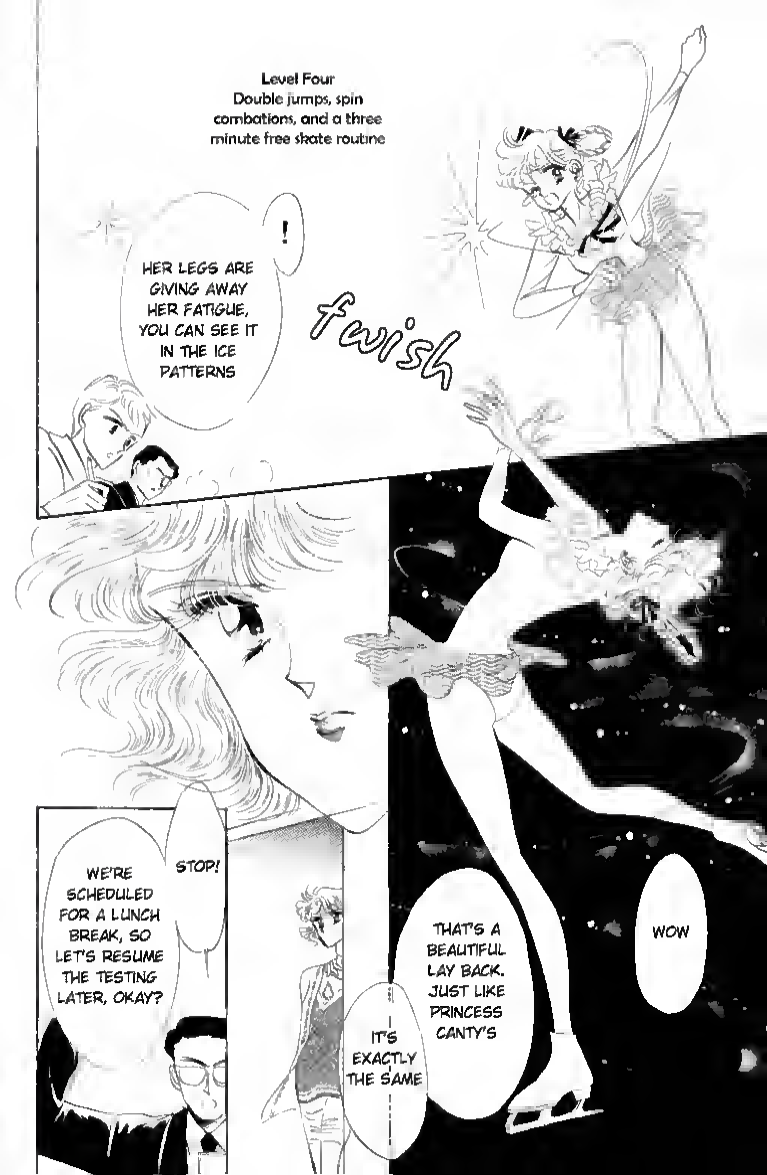
However

There is no level requirement for pair couples

I CAN DO THE ELEMENTARY STUFF
GOOD, YOU'VE PASSED THE BEGINNER'S LEVEL
PLEASE BEGIN THE LEVEL ONE ROUTINE
YES SIR
OKAY
slide
THIS IS IT
swish
Level One:
Simple jumps and basic compulsory figures
WOW, A PERFECT CIRCLE, WELL DONE!
SHE REALLY IS MR. ASUKA'S DAUGHTER!
HER BASICS ARE RIGHT ON MARK
NEXT
CONTINUE WITH LEVEL 2

NEXT UP IS THE THIRD RANK
Level two:
A simple 100 second performance of single jumps and other spins.
OKAY, AN UPRIGHT FIRST SPIN..
THAT'S REALLY GOOD
HUH?!
chatter
Level 3:
Combination jumps and a two minute free skate routine
IS SHE REALLY GOING TO TRY FOR LEVEL 4 NEXT?!
NO WAY! SHE'S TAKING ALL OF THE EXAMS AT ONCE?!

IT'S ELEVEN AM AND SHE'S STILL GOING
OKAY
PROCEED TO LEVEL FOUR
YES SIR
Pant
Pant
Camel spin
Short spin


Level Four
Double jumps, spin combations, and a three minute free skate routine
!
HER LEGS ARE GIVING AWAY HER FATIGUE, YOU CAN SEE IT IN THE ICE PATTERNS
fwish
WOW
THAT'S A BEAUTIFUL LAY BACK. JUST LIKE PRINCESS CANTY'S
IT'S EXACTLY THE SAME
STOP!
WE'RE SCHEDULED FOR A LUNCH BREAK, SO LET'S RESUME THE TESTING LATER, OKAY?

ALL RIGHT
PROCEED WITH LEVEL FIVE
IF I TAKE A BREAK NOW, I WON'T CONTINUE LATER
IF I
NO
I CAN GO
ANOTHER LEVEL
Pant
Pant
Pant
Pant
Pant
TAKING THIS MANY LEVEL TESTS AT ONCE IS COMPLETELY UNHEARD OF!
chatter
chatter
WHAT THE HECK?!
SHE HASN'T EVEN TAKEN ONE BREAK! SHE MUST BE GETTING CLOSE TO HER LIMIT. THE ROUTINES ARE GETTING HARDER.
JUNIOR RINK
Badge Testing in Progress
I KNEW IT!
!
Pant
Pant
clack
clack

Level 5
2 styles of double jump,
doubling jump combinations
and jump spins
twirl
HOW CAN SHE KEEP UP HER STAMINA?!
I CAN SEE IT SO CLEARLY NOW, ALL OF A SUDDEN...
CHIER!
SHE'S GOING ALL THE WAY TO LEVEL 6?!
NO WAY
HOW MANY LEVELS IS SHE GOING TO TRY TO COMPLETE TODAY?!

YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?!
IF THEY HAVE THE QUALIFICATIONS TO REGISTER, THERE'S NO LIMIT TO THE NUMBER OF ENTRANTS. IF THE COACH SAYS IT'S OKAY, THEY'LL LET HER PERFORM
IS COACH MORI PLANNING TO HAVE HER COMPETE IN THE BLOCK CHAMPIONSHIPS?!
I HAD TO PRACTICE FOR TEN YEARS BEFORE MY COACH WOULD ALLOW ME TO TAKE THE LEVEL SIX TEST! TEN YEARS!
THERE WERE TONS OF TOURNAMENTS I WANTED TO ENTER, BUT SHE WOULD NEVER LET ME! WHY DOES THIS GIRL GET SPECIAL TREATMENT. IT'S NOT FAIR!
chatter chatter
BE QUIET!
IT'S FAVORITISM!

I DID IT!!
swish
A TRIPLE!!
IT NORMALLY TAKES A PERSON FIVE OR SIX YEARS TO LEARN HOW TO DO JUST A DOUBLE
SHE HAS INCREDIBLE TALENT, BUT IT SEEMS LIKE SOMEONE ALREADY INSTILLED THE FOUNDATIONS IN HER
THAT'S ...!
SHE'S A FAST LEARNER

YOU'RE RIGHT
BUT SHE'S IN A HURRY
DON'T YOU UNDER-STAND?
EVEN IF SHE'S IN A HURRY, SHE DID SOMETHING THAT TAKES MOST PEOPLE TEN YEARS TO LEARN IN JUST A YEAR.
I DID THIS FAVOR FOR YOU BECAUSE YOU ASKED ME, MASANORI, BUT I THINK WE SHOULD STOP OVERWORKING HER.
OTHERWISE, YOU'RE GOING TO DESTROY HER

CHIERI IS THE ONE WHO MAKES THE IMPOSSIBLE, POSSIBLE
IF SHE KEEPS GOING LIKE THIS
SHE'LL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO BREAK THE MACHINE
I DON'T THINK SHE'S REACHED HER BREAKING POINT YET
TSUZUKI?!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU THINKING?!

YOU HAVE CHIERI WORKING WITH COACH MORI.
SO THIS IS HOW YOU'VE RIGGED IT!
TSUZUKI!
KOUICHI!
IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO ABANDON CHIERI, I'LL HELP YOU.
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?!
I'M THE ONE WHO GOT HER INVOLVED IN ALL THIS
SHE'S MY RESPONSIBILITY
SHE'S FINALLY IN THE SKATING CLUB, BUT SHE DIDN'T HAVE A COACH OR THE TIME TO PRACTICE.
SO I FELT SORRY FOR HER.

CHAMOMILE TEA = MADE FROM CHAMOMILE FLOWERS, THOUGHT TO AID IN RELAXATION AND STRESS CONTROL

SMASH
HEH
SORRY
THAT WAS MY MOTHER'S CUP
HUH?
CHIERI!
HOW DARE SHE LAUGH
I WON'T LET HER DO THIS, I'LL BEAT HER!
dash
HUH, WHAT ARE THEY DOING WITH MY COACH...
KOUICHI?!
TSUZUKI?!

SHOCK
OH YEAH
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S STILL HERE, BUT
I HAVE THE SAME COACH WHO TAUGHT TSUZUKI
YEAH, BUT THEN YOU FOUND A BETTER COACH AND UPGRADED TO YOUR OWN PRIVATE RINK, REMEMBER?
COACH MORI WAS MY MENTOR WHEN I FIRST JOINED THIS CLUB
NO WAY! I'LL TAKE IT!
OH COME ON, THAT'S FOR KIDS TO USE I BET ASUKA WOULDN'T WANT THAT...
HERE'S THE KEY TO MY OLD LOCKER, I USED TO KEEP ALL MY EQUIPMENT HERE MAYBE YOU CAN USE IT?
OHHH
THE KEY TO TSUZUKI'S LOCKER...
SO YOU'RE DOING THE LEVEL 6 AT 1 PM - BE COOL

SHE LOOKS LIKE SHE'S ABOUT TO FLIP OUT
POW
EEK
badum
MY HEART
...OHHH...
badum badum badum badum
YOU DID GREAT THIS AFTERNOON. I THINK WE'RE DONE HERE FOR TODAY
OKAY
fwish

WHAT?!
A SHARD OF GLASS
INSIDE MY SHOE?!
CLATTER
YOU KNOW, THE PRINCESS AND TSUZUKI HAVE BEEN PLANNING TO TOUR THE WORLD TOGETHER SINCE THEY WERE EIGHT YEARS OLD
I BET YOU'RE FEELING GOOD ABOUT YOURSELF SINCE YOU'RE BECOMING FRIENDS WITH TSUZUKI
THROB
THROB
I DON'T HAVE ANY RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM LIKE THAT!
WHY DOES EVERYONE THINK I DO?!
THROB

YOU'VE ONLY MADE IT THIS FAR BECAUSE OF YOUR FATHER'S INFLUENCE!
THROB
THROB
THROB
THE LEVEL SIX TEST IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!
PLEASE COME TO THE RINK AT ONCE!
ASUKA CHIERI!
To Be Continued in Book 2